

Fotpin Coordinating Committee Meeting

3 June 2013

Minutes

Present: Warren Bond, John Brannan (Convenor), Heather Burness (Treasurer), Don Driscoll, Pax (Coordinator)

1. Apologies

Elizabeth Smith

Action: JB to email Elizabeth with our commiserations

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted with the exception of the outstanding actions of the previous meeting.

3. Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

Action: Heather to circulate the outstanding actions from the previous two meetings and insert to the minutes for the convenience of members.

[NB: Actions from previous meetings inserted below.]

Revegetation Strategy (10 Dec 2012)

Seed Collection and propagation

Action: John B to draft paper to promote to members re collection and propagation and a calendar for what might be collected when. Note that permission for gather seeds is required from PCS. fotpin should work with GA on this issue.

In progress

Flag for fotpin activities (10 Dec 2012)

John, Elizabeth and Pax had informally talked about the possibility of a banner or 'flag' to identify fotpin when holding events such as walks, sausage sizzles etc.

John has talked with GCG re funding for this

Action: Elizabeth to write up options

4. Correspondence – (Elizabeth)

a. *Frogwatch*, see Item 11

Noted

b. *Kangaroos*, see Item 17

The Committee commented that they would like PCS (ACT Parks and Conservation Service) to point us to their definitive supporting documents in their Kangaroo Management Plan.

Action: JB to follow this up at the next meeting with PCS

Accepted

5. Convenor's Report (John)

Refer [Attachment A](#)

- The Eastern Yellow Robin bird species has been sighted at the Pinnacle Nature Reserve for the first time in a very long time.
- The Heritage Day Walks were a success

- New communication with the Conservation Council instigated by the Heritage Festival were very welcome
- The Greening Australia Planting Day was a success
- A Kangaroo Count occurred at Kama Reserve.
- Other walks led by John for the Canberra Ornithologists Group and University of the Third Age
- Weeding continues unabated
- Meetings with Ginninderra Catchment Group and PCL have been attended

Report Noted

6. Coordinator's Report (Pax)

Since the last CC meeting, the major footpin events have been:

- Continuing weed control efforts
- 19 May a planting event at North Kama with some 30 people attending and 282 plants planted
- 30 March: additional coir logging in Bottom Pinnacle, funded by Greening Australia, and fitment of woody weed material.

Report Noted.

7. Treasurer's Report (Heather)

Refer [Attachment B](#)

- Totals have remained unchanged.
- Treasurer's report tabled and accepted

Action: Pax to email Heather details of auditor for the Financial report for the AGM

8. Membership Report (Warren)

- Current membership stands at 65, a net increase of 1 since the March meeting.
- We welcome Nathanael Boehm and Richard Erlandson to our membership, and farewell Avinashi Saraswati, who has left Canberra.
- The number of other people on our email lists has increased by 14 (largely an outcome of the Hawker Primary School Fete) to a total of 69.

Report noted

9. Weed Management (Warren)

Refer [Attachment C](#)

Warren presented a report summarising the nature of the weeding season in the last 3 months. He highlighted the major weeds posing a threat, and how the weeding effort has been expended.

- over 50% of effort was spent on Briars, Paterson's curse and Verbascum;
- about 40% of effort was spent on the neighbouring Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama paddocks;
- about one third of effort was spent spraying.

Report noted

10. Native Grass Regeneration Project (Don)

- Experimental Plots were burnt in May (in one day) by Stephen Wilkes and Katherine Jenkins from PCS
- The "Slashed Plots" and "Crop Plots" were slashed and weighed
- We are waiting for enough soil moisture to spread crop seeds in the appropriate plots

Report noted

11. Possible funding from Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG) and options for expenditure (John)

- Our wish list taken to GCG for possible funding was for a Solo Back Pack for Spraying priced at \$189 and an Etrex 10 GPS priced at \$94
- Anything else we need to add to the list please email John as soon as possible so they may be sent to GCG

Action: Everyone to email JB any extra items for the wish list as soon as possible

12. Frogwatch – expression of interest (John)

- A proposal had been discussed by email before the meeting to fence some of the creeks and dams in North Kama to protect frog habitat
- It is not feasible to apply for funding at this point due to time and the constraint of finding matching funding
- Fotpin CC notes and regrets that the Frogwatch program may be defunded in the coming ACT budget. We await the news on this issue.

13. AGM

- The AGM will take place on 14 July 2013, 2.30pm at Weetangera Primary School
- The venue has been booked
- A speaker will be organised by John. Jasmine Foxlee. PCS Parkcare and Volunteer Coordinator was suggested
- Email to be sent to members giving notice of the meeting including the date and venue with an Agenda attached at least 14 days before the meeting
- Elizabeth might be able to organise the cakes and refreshments

Actions:

1. John to arrange a speaker
2. John to give notice of the meeting to members at least 14 days before the meeting including, date time and venue and also attaching an agenda. Email to be drafted by Heather.
3. John to contact Elizabeth to ask if she will arrange nibbles, cakes and refreshments for the meeting.

14. Revegetation Strategy (John)

a. Belconnen Hills Woodlands Restoration Strategy

This has been completed in the region of the Pinnacle Reserve and will now move to other areas. Refer to the Convenor's report

b. Plantings

- Plantings occurred with Greening Australia last month
- A small planting is planned for the northern border of Kama Paddock. This might have to be postponed to Spring due to time constraints and GA unable to source some of the planned plants
- The replacement of briars in Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama was discussed at length. Further discussions to be held between John and Warren.

15. Soil and Water Erosion (Pax)

- On 30 March a team of fotpins completed the installation of additional coir logs and fitted remaining woody weed material.
- David Tongway and Pax also recorded erosion points along a small portion of a nearby eroding gully, for uploading to the fotpin website.

16. Rabbit control (Pax)

- Fotpins continue to report the presence of rabbit warrens to Warren for forwarding to ACT Parks, as an aid to rabbit control efforts.
- There are continuing efforts to control rabbits at the Pinnacle.

17. Kangaroos (Pax)

- There has been no contact from ACT Parks re Pinnacle kangaroo survey in 2013.
- Pax will request that they assist us to carry one out.

Action: Pax to request PCS to schedule a kangaroo count for The Pinnacle Nature Reserve this winter

18. Focal Point (Heather)

- PCS have communicated informally that there are insufficient funds for this financial year to complete the Contaminated site assessment, contrary to previous understandings
- The cost for the assessment has blown out to possibly \$55,000 due to the process needing to be audited
- It is unlikely that there will be funds for this to occur next financial year.
- There has not been written confirmation of this state of affairs
- The CC discussed options for moving forward and regrets and is disappointed with the current situation.
- CC decided to follow up our communication with Shane Rattenbury's office asking if he has replied to our letter
- Heather will ask Stephen Wilkes to outline the current situation in writing (email) so that local school Principals may be informed of the time frame as a matter of courtesy

Actions:

1. Heather to follow up with Stephen Wilkes at the next PCS meeting asking for written confirmation of the situation.
2. John/Heather to email Shane Rattenbury's office in regard to our previous letter.

19. Information, outreach and website (Heather)

a. Newsletter, flyers, brochure

The brochure is still in train. Heather will proof the text when she receives it.

b. Letterbox drop

None planned

c. Guided Walks

- 18 walkers attended JB's walk on the Heritage Festival day (28th April)
- 22 walkers followed Pax to the River on the same day.
- Just under 30 people attended the planting day (19th May) which was the other event in our Autumn Program
- As John has noted there appeared little difference in numbers attending from previous years although we have had some lean times in other seasons when only 9 or 4 people have attended some walks.
- All three of the events in the program were well attended ; ie there was an even spread
- A total of 70 "attendances" (noting that there will be overlap of attendees as such) at a fotpin Autumn Program occurred this season
- A big thank you to all who made this happen. Emails were sent thanking members from Elizabeth, Pax and John Brannan (thanks folks) as I was interstate at the time
- It was decided that Heather should collate data on our guided walk program attendance for the last three years

Action: Heather to collate data on Guided walk attendance numbers for the past three years

d. School fetes, shopping centre displays

- Fotpin attended the Hawker Primary School Autumn Fair on April 7
- We had many fotpin member volunteers helping out with the stall which was in a prime location, just as visitors were entering the school Hall.
- Raffle winners were announced on our website.
- The winning entries were drawn by Andrew Leigh MP.
- Thanks to Mandy Kalyvas (HPS Principal) for arranging Andrew Leigh to draw the prizes and for her note taking on the day.

e. Noticeboard

The noticeboard was vandalized with spray paint in the week before our Autumn Program was to launch. Thanks to Jasmine Foxlee, PCS Volunteer Coordinator, for her prompt reaction to this.

Heather also reported that:

- The board has been updated with colour photos of fotpin members and others volunteering in on-ground activities
- The mood of the images is as light as possible with a diversity of people engaged in activities being a prime driver of the choice of photo.
- The next update will occur in about a 6 weeks and will have text and will have a thematic approach such as “grass” or “erosion” (I prefer the former)
- If anyone has relevant photos concerning the next theme please send them to Heather.

Action: Heather to contact CC members and or fotpin members for photos for the next thematic display

20. Website update/priorities (Warren)

Apart from routine updates of weeding information, etc, the only major change to the website has been the addition of a new improved track map, added as it had become clear that quite a few people were using it (usage has doubled in the last 12 months and it was the fifth most visited page on our website in the last 3 months).

The number of unique visitors in the three months March to May 2013 was 658 (compared with 452 for the previous 3 months and 547 for the same months in 2012).

“Recent Weeding” continues to be the most accessed page on our site, though it is pleasing to see “About the Pinnacle Nature Reserve” and “Track map” featuring in the top 5 as well.

21. Events (future)

- AGM 14 July 2013 2.30 pm at Weetangera Primary School

22. Other Business

- Fences were discussed particularly the possible removal of the diagonal fence running from the pump house gate to the Bottom Pinnacle.
- Sheep movement in areas adjacent to the Pinnacle and into the reserve

Actions:

1. Pax to seek permission from PCS for fotpins to help remove the diagonal fence running between the pump house gate and the Bottom Pinnacle
2. John to follow up with PCS about sheep moving to inappropriate areas

23. Proposed date for next CC meeting:

A short half hour meeting before the AGM, at Weetangera Primary School 1.45 pm July 14 2013

Meeting closed 9.35 pm

List of Actions from fotpin Coordinating Committee meeting 3rd June 2013

Apologies

Action: John to email Elizabeth with our commiserations

Minutes of the previous meeting and Outstanding Actions

Action: Heather to circulate the outstanding actions from the previous two meetings

Correspondence

Action: John to follow up re definitive supporting documents of PCS in their Kangaroo Management Plan up at the next meeting with PCS

Treasurers Report

Action: Pax to email Heather details of auditor for the Financial report for the AGM

GCG Funding

Action: Everyone to email John any extra items for the wish list as soon as possible

AGM

Actions:

- John to arrange a speaker
- John to give notice of the meeting to members at least 14 days before the meeting including, date time and venue and also attaching an agenda.
- Heather to draft email
- John to contact Elizabeth to ask if she will arrange nibbles, cakes and refreshments for the meeting.

Focal point

Actions:

- Heather to follow up with Stephen Wilkes at the next PCS meeting asking for written confirmation of the situation
- John/Heather to email Shane Rattenbury's office in regard to our previous letter

Guided Walks

Action: Heather to collate data on Guided walk attendance numbers for the past three years

Noticeboard

Action: Heather to contact CC members and or fotpin members for photos for the next thematic display

Other Business

Actions:

- Pax to seek permission from PCL for fotpins to remove the diagonal fence running between the pump house gate and the Bottom Pinnacle
- John to follow up with PCS about sheep moving to inappropriate areas

Convenor's Report

March 2013 to May 2013

Another busy and eventful quarter for fotpin. The major milestones for the group were probably the two walks in April and the Woodland Restoration Project planting in North Kama in May. Our participation in the kangaroo count in the Kama NR in March provided another opportunity to work with PCL's Don Fletcher and, incidentally, a chance to briefly appear on the ABC to discuss the work fotpin do with regard to land management and the problems we face, particularly as they relate to kangaroo numbers.

Both the April walks were well attended, at around 20 people for each, and the weather was close to perfect. The short walk that I led was notable in that it was a combined event with the Conservation Council, who included it as part of their "Treasure Hunt" series of walks aimed at including kids and families in the outdoor activities. The presence of half dozen youngsters changed the character of the walk markedly, making it much more broad-ranging than my previous bird-focused walks. There was much more conversation around plant species, land management and the importance of trying to restore native vegetation. I should acknowledge the assistance provided by Dierk Von Behrens in this regard in the early part of the walk. (He hopped over into Pax's walk at the halfway point.) I'd also like to thank Barbara Allan, who turned up at the start of the walk to provide backup in the event that the group was unmanageably large and needed to be split up.

Similar thanks are due to Alison Milton, who agreed at short notice to provide Pax with invaluable backup for his walk.

The level of attendance at the walks is interesting given that they were much more widely publicised than our previous walks, including listings in the Canberra Times and PCL's "Explorer" newsletter. The jump in participant numbers was relatively small given all the extra publicity that went out. One additional benefit of the walks was the opportunity they provided to work with the Conservation Council, which is another relationship that could yield benefits in the future.

There were also a couple of other walks I led at the Pinnacle during April and May; one for U3A, which was attended by around 15 people and proved very enjoyable. The other, co-led by Barbara Allan, was for the Canberra Ornithologists Group, which was attended by around 20 birdos and clocked an impressive 40 species during the 2 hour walk, including an observation of an Eastern Yellow Robin, a species not seen at the Pinnacle for many years. Subsequent observations show that there's actually a pair hanging around the woodlands in Central paddock on the slopes of the Pinnacle itself.

The planting on May 19th was also very well attended. Just short of 30 people signed up, many of them new faces (to me at least). Once again, the weather was near perfect and we even had a sprinkling of rain earlier in the week – a rare event in what has been a very dry Autumn.

The original plan had been to plant around 300 tubestock during the morning, but a slight shortfall in plant numbers left us a little short of that target. Ian Rayner from GA thought it likely that one of the GA people would come back in the following week to bed in the remaining plants. The missing plants aside, GA did their usual sterling job of organizing the planting and the BBQ that followed. Ian and his team are very good at what they do and deserve all the credit for making the day a success. Thanks again to Alison Milton for being our photographer on the day, and to the Cox family for running the BBQ so efficiently.

This planting is the last of planned plantings at the Pinnacle under the Woodland Restoration Project, which now turns its attention to the corridor that runs down the eastern edge of Canberra.

I am still hoping that we can squeeze in another small planting this season along the northern edge of the Kama paddock, but time is running out and I am still waiting for confirmation of plant availability from GA. It may be that this one has to wait until Spring.

On the weeding front, our effort has continued unabated despite the dry weather and cooler conditions. In April we logged the 4th highest monthly total ever, mostly targeting Paterson's Curse, Verbascum, briars and thistles, though we're now also finding some infestations of Bathurst Burr, while the battle against Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass also continues.

Progress on the Focal Point is less encouraging, with the assessment process now stalled due to lack of funding. It is highly uncertain at this point whether funding will become available in the next financial year, but we will continue to lobby for this excellent initiative.

As Convenor, I have attended numerous meetings involving the Ginninderra Catchment Group as well as the Coordinator's group meetings with PCL. Ongoing meetings with the PCL rangers at Mitchell are also being planned for coming weeks. I also attended a full-day First Aid course and am now able to administer CPR should any of our committee meetings get out of hand! There was also the launch for the Labour of Love book on April 19, at which I received our complimentary copy of the book and a rather fetching mug. Interested parties are welcome to view both at the CC meeting or at the AGM.

John Brannan

**Friends of The Pinnacle
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 01-March-2013 to 31-May-2013**

Opening balance on 01-March-2013	\$413.15
Receipts	00.00
Payments	00.00
Closing balance on 28-February-2013	\$413.15
Reconciled to:	
CPS Account 03356841 at 31 May 2013	254.55
Plus Petty Cash	158.60
Total	\$413.15

Heather Burness
Treasurer
Fotpin Committee
2012/13

Weed management Report

The last 3 months (March to May) have seen 365 hours of weeding effort reported, about the same as in the same three months the previous season (371 hours), and only slightly less than the total for the 3 months to February (401 hours). April was a particularly busy month, having the fourth largest total monthly effort (176 hours) since our records began in 2011, and the second highest spraying effort (122 hours).

The main weed species treated during this period were briars (78 hours), Paterson's curse (60 hours), and Verbascum (57 hours).

Other species worth mentioning are assorted Broadleaf weeds (mainly fleabane; 45 hours), Thistles (other than Saffron – mainly Spear and Scotch - 43 hours), and Horehound (38 hours), spraying of which was able to be commenced in late April with other spraying commitments out of the way

The species mentioned above accounted for about 90% of the effort in this 3 month period.

We have continued to spend just over a third of our effort in the neighbouring Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama paddocks. This is nearly 3 times the amount of effort spent off-Reserve in the corresponding period last season.

Warren Bond

2 June 2013