



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 06 June 2016 7-30 pm

Minutes

Present: John Brannan (Coordinator), Denise Hall (Treasurer), Warren Bond, Keith Thomas.

1. Apologies

Nathanael Coyne

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising

Moved: Warren; seconded: Keith; Accepted

Actions arising from December meeting (see [Attachment A](#))

3. Correspondence in and out / Business arising

Warren, as Acting Secretary, tabled a summary of correspondence (see [Attachment B](#)).

There was no business arising apart from that already included in the Agenda.

4. Convenor's Report

Due to unforeseen circumstances, John (Acting Convenor) was unable to prepare a report, but will produce an *Update* for members in the next few days.

5. Coordinator's Report

Due to unforeseen circumstances, John was unable to prepare a report, but will include it in the *Update* for members in the next few days.

6. Treasurer's Report / Business arising

Denise tabled the previously circulated Treasurer's Report ([Attachment C](#)) and pointed out that there had been only a small (positive) change in our financial situation since the March meeting.

Moved: Denise; Seconded: Warren; Accepted.

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership stands at 79 (an increase of 1 since the March meeting). The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists increased by 3 to 111.

Noted.

8. Weed Management

Warren tabled the report (see [Attachment D](#)) and reported that the effort spent on weed control in the last three months 301 hours, 24% less than for the same period last year. Of the 301 hours 53% was spent on the Reserve and 14% in the new Extension area. The main targets were Verbascum and St. John's Wort, followed by African Lovegrass, Briars, non-Saffron Thistles and Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds.

Noted.

His report also raised the issue that while weeding effort had remained about the same over the last 4 years the number of active weeders had declined and 67% of the total effort was contributed by two people, one of whom has just pulled out of all weed control on the Pinnacle.

The meeting discussed responses to this issue including restricting future weed control to the Reserve and focusing once again on recruitment. The matter will be raised at the AGM.

Action: The need for more weeders (particularly sprayers) to be raised at the AGM and to be flagged for action by the incoming Committee.

9. Website

Warren reported that apart from the addition of the Pinnacle Extension page there have been only minor changes and page updates on the website in the last 3 months (see [website updates](#)).

The number of unique visitors to the website in the last 3 months rose for the first time in five quarters, returning to the long-term (modest) growth trend. Popular pages in this period were "About the Pinnacle", "Recent weeding", the Newsletters page and walking-related pages.

Noted.

10. Revegetation

John shared his current thoughts on possible future revegetation projects, including extending the plantings in Bottom Pinnacle and removing the tree guards from the last planting there.

He also said that he thought the focus should shift towards grassland restoration and that he was exploring options for restoration of the triangular grassy area at the northern end of the Forest block, bounded by the Springvale Track, the Dowling Track and the Forest.

Noted.

11. Information and outreach

- a. Hawker Primary School Fete, 3rd April.

John reported that it went well and we received a certificate of appreciation from the school for participating. He thanked those who contributed to the fotpin stall, particularly Elisabeth Smith.

- b. Autumn Program

John reported that the program went well and that he will provide a more detailed report in the upcoming *Update*.

There was a discussion of plans for the spring program including that we arrange a walk through the Pinnacle Extension, focusing on the extension/offset process itself as well as on the ecological values of the area.

Action: John and Warren to discuss the organization of a Pinnacle Extension walk for spring.

- c. Interpretative Signage

Keith tabled a report ([Attachment E](#)) on progress so far in developing a plan for interpretive signage on the Reserve. The general proposal has received strong support from PCS.

The Committee agreed that Keith should develop a firm proposal for three interpretative signs (on top of the Pinnacle, at either the de Salis St. or Dungowan St. entrance and on the Macrorhyncha Track at about where the current sign is) as well as a number of posts with QR codes that link to specially developed fotpin web pages with explanatory information relevant to the locations around the posts.

There was also a discussion about potential sources of funding for the signs.

Action: Keith to develop a firm proposal for interpretative signs to take to PCS.

12. Pinnacle Extension (previously referred to as the Biodiversity Offset)

- a. An action item from the March meeting was to arrange a meeting with PCS (Parks and Conservation Service) to discuss the revised Offset Management Plan. Following the General Meeting on 17th April 2016, the agenda for that meeting was expanded to include issues raised by members at the General Meeting.

[Notes of the meeting with PCS](#) had been previously circulated to the Committee and have been placed on our website.

- b. Further consideration of suggestion by members made at the General Meeting on 17th April 2016.

The suggestions from members contained in the [Minutes of the General Meeting](#) are summarized in [Attachment F](#) together with the committee's completed or planned responses.

Of the six suggestions, four have been acted on or responded to and plans are in place to deal with the other two.

13. Restoration Plan

In Nat's absence there was no report.

Action: John to follow up participants of the Restoration group convened by Pax to discuss the status of their deliberations.

14. Other Business

- a. Arrangements for the AGM

Action: John to ask the new ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment to be guest speaker and to confirm a venue for the AGM.

There was a discussion about how to fill the vacant positions on the Committee.

- b. 2016 kangaroo count report

Fully reported on the website: [kangaroo sweep count, 22 May 2016](#).

- c. PCS works on the Reserve

Commencement of the removal of the northern fence running along the south side of the Springvale track and then through the Forest to the Dowling track has been initiated by Craig Wainwright, just in time to make it easier for the kangaroo count moving through the Forest.

The track work notified to fofpin by PCS in early May has been completed, and while the work is good and likely to prevent further erosion there are some concerns about keeping any bicyclists 'illegally' using the tracks from riding around stepped parts of the tracks and causing more damage than if the track work had not been done. Options for preventing this were discussed.

Action: John to discuss options for preventing short-cutting of tracks with John Fitz Gerald and PCS.

Warren raised concerns about the seemingly unnecessary and excessive creation of random vehicle tracks during the track work, some of which are located in such a way that they will encourage the creation of new foot tracks and potentially cause erosion.

15. Proposed date for next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be 24th July immediately preceding the AGM.

Meeting closed at 9-45 pm

Attachment A. Item2. Actions arising from March meeting**11. Focal Point**

Action: Keith (and John) to pursue the options for interpretative signage with PCS.

Done. See item 13 (c).

12. Information and outreach

Action: John to fix a date for the bird walk, liaise with Pax and PCS to fix the date of the kangaroo count and then schedule Warren's walk.

Done. See items 13 (b) and 16 (b).

13. Pinnacle Extension

Action: John to follow up with PCS and arrange a meeting to discuss the revised Offset Management Plan.

Done. See item 14.

14. Other Business**(a) AGM**

Action: John to liaise with Pax about arranging to hold it at the Weetangera Primary School again.

Done.

(b) Rabbit Control

Action: Warren to provide Nat, Keith and John with the list of currently mapped burrows so they can check them for activity, and to provide Keith with some training on GPS use.

Cancelled. The rabbit burrow fumigation began without notice in the same week as the meeting, so we were too late. Warren will train Keith in GPS and burrow mapping in August before the next rabbit treatment is due.

Attachment B. Item 4. Summary of Correspondence between 15th March and 3rd June 2016

ACT Land Development Agency

Requesting meeting to brief us about some of the capital work and infrastructure activities that are happening and scheduled in Molonglo Valley (Whitlam) near the Pinnacle

Friends of Grasslands

Arrangements for FoG workshop on the Pinnacle by David Tongway

General Meeting Called by Cox et al.

Assorted incoming and outgoing related to organising the meeting

Ginninderra Catchment Authority

Requesting ideas for supporting on-ground Landcare

General Meeting Agenda and Minutes (April and June)

Draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy Public Consultation

Newsletters (GCG and FrogWatch)

Hawker Fete

Miscellaneous regarding arrangements

Members

Outgoing correspondence to members regarding:

- Scottsdale Community Planting
- Autumn activities
- Minister Gentleman Media Release - New additions to Canberra's nature reserve system
- Track work on the Reserve
- The death of Philip Bell

Exchange of correspondence with:

- Elisabeth Smith about the Notice Board
- Rosemary Blemings about the potential impact of trackwork

Pinnacle Extension

- regarding meeting to discuss the Offset Management Plan and operational issues [see agenda item 12 (a)]
- regarding the construction of the NW fence of the offset
- providing the requested historic fotpin weeding effort for the Offset area

Parks and Conservation Service (PCS)

- Proposal for interpretative signage
- Trackwork
- Meeting about weeding mapping at the Reserve
- Requesting PCS to ask ICON water to spray African Lovegrass inside the tank fence
- Removal of northern fence
- Spare 200 key
- Noticeboard protection during KMP
- Large branch shelters on the Reserve
- Removal of rubbish from the Reserve

Miscellaneous General Incoming

ACT Conservation Council Newsletters

GCG Newsletters

Attachment C. Item 6. Treasurer's report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2015 to 31-May-2016**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2015		\$622.64
Receipts		
Membership and donations	\$110.00	
Sale of GCG brochures	20.00	
Interest	0.02	
		<u>\$130.02</u>
Payments		
nil		<u>\$0.00</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>\$130.02</u>
Closing balance on 31-May-2016		<u><u>\$752.66</u></u>
Reconciled to:		
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$529.76	
Petty Cash	\$222.90	
		<u>\$752.66</u>
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Total		<u><u>\$752.66</u></u>

Notes:

1. Funds to the value of \$241-78 (at 30 June 2015) are also held by The Ginninderra Catchment Group for general use by fotpin.
2. Ginninderra Catchment Authority holds and administers in fotpin's name residual funds from the Commonwealth Caring for Country Grant and the Labor Club Grant (both for the Native Grass Regeneration Project) and Spicers (for the 2011 tree planting project).

Denise Hall
Treasurer
02 June 2016

Attachment D. Item 8. Weeding report

Weed control for the last 3 months

The last 3 months have seen us put in 301 hours of effort on weed control, the second smallest total for March to May of the last 6 years, and 24% less than last year.

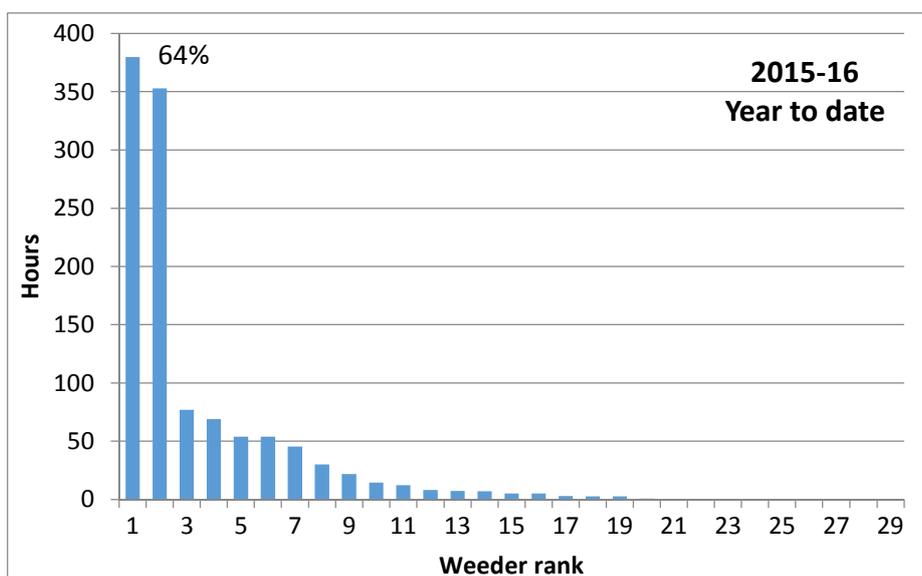
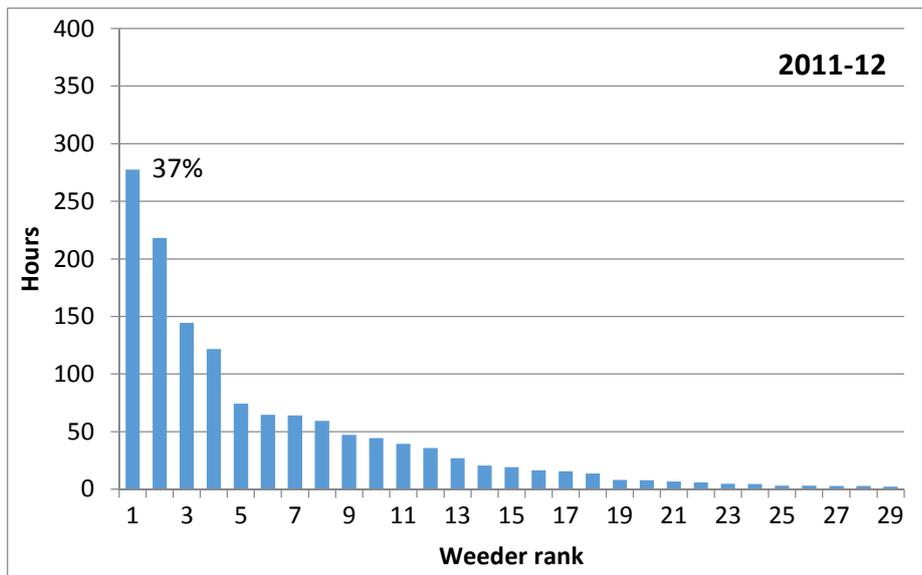
Of this time 53% was spent on the Reserve, 14% (43 h) was spent in the Extension, 22% in Bottom Pinnacle and 11% in the non-extension parts of North Kama.

The greatest effort for the 3 months (27%) was spent on Verbascum, followed by St. John’s Wort (19%), African Lovegrass (13%). Briars (11%), non-Saffron Thistles (10%) and miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds (7%); the remaining 5% was spent on Paterson’s curse and Saffron Thistles.

Effort for the year to end of May was 1150 h, making it the fourth largest total to the end of May for the five years of our records, but 14 h more than the average to the end of May for the previous five years.

Looming weed control crisis

- Fewer weeders
- Much greater proportion of effort reliant on two people, one of whom has just pulled out of all weed control on the Pinnacle



Attachment E. Item 11 (c). Interpretive Signs Report

Background:

1. At the last CC meeting it was decided to modify the FOCAL Point project to concentrate on providing information to users of the Pinnacle in a more condensed manner. This led to the focus now being on interpretive signs located around the Pinnacle.
2. These signs could vary from small QR Code to medium sized information signs to a shelter with larger signs.
3. The task was to develop a proposal to put before the CC and to seek funding for an agreed proposal

Progress to date:

4. Three distinct activities have occurred since the last CC meeting. They are as follows:
 - a. E-mailed relevant PCS personnel to determine interest – quite a positive response (refer attached e-mail);
 - b. Meeting with Sarah Hnatiuk (from Friends of Mount Painter (FOMP)) and John Brannan on 11th May; and
 - c. Visit Mt Painter and take photos.
5. The meeting with Sarah and John discussed what FOMP did and how much it cost. This was very instructive and the FOMP were able to do quite a number of signs and have them erected in suitable places.
6. Soon after the meeting, my wife and I climbed Mt Painter and took the attached photos (figures 1-5).

Some initial thoughts:

7. Within the Pinnacle Reserve:
 - a. Provide a mix of signs with QR codes (linked to the relevant web pages in the FOTPIN website) across the Pinnacle Reserve.
 - b. These signs would include the following (as an ambit proposal):
 - i. A shelter and large signs at De Salis entrance (see figures 6- 8);
 - ii. A smaller yet easily read sign at Dungowan Street entrance;
 - iii. One or two panorama signs and information on the Pinnacle itself; and
 - iv. QR codes located at suitable landmarks around the Reserve.

Photographs:

8. [Photos of signs from Mt Painter the start of the Hans Heysen trail in Victor Harbour](#), South Australia have been provided as examples to inform the discussion

Keith Thomas
26th May 2016

Attachment F. Item 12 (b). Summary of Members' suggestions at the General Meeting 17/4/16

- I. The committee should make PCS aware that concerns have been raised among the fotpin membership about the calculation of the offset area.
Raised at the [meeting with PCS on 19-Apr-2016](#).
- II. The Committee should request enhanced management (particularly weed control) in areas adjacent to the offset be included explicitly in the management plan as a buffer area and as a de-facto increase in the size of the offset.
Raised at the [meeting with PCS on 19-Apr-2016](#).
- III. fotpin should request the inclusion, if possible, for provision of an underpass or pipe tunnels across William Hovell Drive to make it easier for ground-based wildlife to take advantage of the corridor that the Extension creates between The Pinnacle and Kama Nature Reserves.
This has yet to be raised with PCS.
Action: *John to raise with PCS.*
- IV. The Committee should approach the Conservation Council to see if they would take up the issue of improved transparency in the offsets process.
John raised this at the Conservation Council Forum on Offsets at which representatives of most stakeholders were present (including the relevant ACT and Federal government departments). The response was that they were trying to do better, but up until now have been hampered by the very subjective nature of the Federal Government's offset calculator, The One developed by the ACT Government is better but has yet to be approved for use, though that is expected in the near future, when that will be able to be used
- V. The Committee provide more information to members, for example in the regular fotpin "Updates", about the Pinnacle Extension, about the draft management plan and fotpin's input to it and, ideally, about how fotpin thought the area should be managed in order to achieve the offset requirements.
The Committee has already undertaken (and started) to improve the level of information on all topics being made available to members, and there will be an opportunity to comment on the Draft Offset Management Plan as soon as it is received. However the Committee did not feel it was in a position to make a judgement on how the offset should be managed in order to achieve the offset requirements. The Committee would welcome members who felt they were in a position to do that to nominate for the Committee at the AGM on 24th July.
- VI. The committee invite input to the draft management plan from interested members.
There will be an opportunity to comment on the Draft Offset Management Plan as soon as it is received (likely to be late June).
Action: *Draft Offset Management plan to be made available to all members for comment when it is received from PCS..*