



Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 8th February 2021 7-30 pm

Minutes

Present: John Brannan (Convenor), Warren Bond, Denise Hall, Mike Hall, Len Taylor

1. Apologies

Alana Wilkes

2. [Minutes of the Last Meeting](#) / Business Arising

It was moved by John and seconded by Mike that the Minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting held on 9th Nov 2020 be accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting.

Agreed.

Consideration of Actions carried forward from previous meetings:

20200210: Item 10 (d) Clean-up of remaining gravel piles near the tanks

Action: John to continue to follow up.

John will follow up again with our new ranger team.

201109: Item 2 (a) Business arising from the correspondence

Action: John Brannan to raise with Ranger Kelzang and Ranger in charge Andrew Halley the issue of horse people taking over a corner of Eastern paddock.

Completed. This matter has been very satisfactorily dealt with by Ranger Kelzang.

201109: Item 5 Treasurer's Report

Action: John to organize contact with GCG for Mike

Completed and Mike will make contact soon.

3. Correspondence in and out (Warren) ([Attachment A](#))

Noted.

Business arising (other than that to be dealt with under other items):

- John asked if there were any matters that the committee would like raised at the ParkCare Convenors' meeting to be held on 15th February.
It was suggested that he raise the general issue of replacing rabbit-proof fences with non-rabbit-proof ones, which has affected us and is likely to affect other Reserves as well.

4. Convenor's Report ([Attachment B](#))

John had previously circulated his report which was noted. The main topics were:

- Molonglo Watermain Revegetation
- Vegwatch Monitoring Project
- Pinnacle Extension Update
- Gang Gangs at the Pinnacle
- Upcoming events.

Report noted.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mike had previously circulated the [Financial Statement for the period 1st November to 7th February](#).

Warren moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted; seconded John; **Agreed**.

Mike also reported that we can now do electronic funds transfer from our bank account and brought the paperwork along to be signed.

Action: Mike to complete setting up EFT capability from our bank account.

6. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership is 104, a decrease of 1 since the last meeting.

The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists increased by 1 to 207, so the total on our email lists remains at 311.

7. Weed Management

The huge amount of weed growth on the Reserve this season is partially reflected in the amount of weed control effort expended in the last 3 months (272 hours), considerably larger than for this 3 month period last year, but the 3rd smallest of our 11 year record. It was, however, spent entirely on the Reserve. Unfortunately, we have not been able to deploy sufficient capacity to provide satisfactory control in all parts of the Reserve this season.

The main weeds dealt with were Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds (53 h) which include Prickly Lettuce, Mustard, Sorrel, Storksbill and various flatweeds. Verbascum (42 h) received the next most effort followed by Saffron Thistles (33 h), St John's Wort (25 h) and Exotic grasses (13 h). Together these made up 94% of the effort for the 3 months. See also [Effort for the 2020-21 season](#) to date.

8. Information and Outreach

a. Website

Warren reported that a couple of small additions have been made to the website since our last meeting (see [updates](#)) as well as the usual regular updates to weeding pages, rainfall and the flora and fauna pages. There has been a major audit of the latter to ensure that all confirmed sightings on Canberra Nature Map have been included. Some additions because of that as well as those resulting from the abundant season have increased the total number of native species by over 60 to 724 native species (including 216 native plant species).

The number of unique visitors in the 3 months since November 1st has averaged 212 per month, 18% less than for the previous 3 month period but 79% more than the corresponding period last year.. Interest in walking pages continues at an elevated level

"Walking Tracks" was the most sought-after page on our site in that period (166 unique views), followed by "Newsletters" (96 unique views), "Recent Weeding" (88 unique views), "About the Pinnacle" (75 unique views), "Plants of the Pinnacle" (74 unique views), the "Flora & Fauna" page (46 unique views) and the mobile-friendly track map page (42 unique views).

b. Social Media

Denise reported that we now have 157 likes on our facebook page and 30 followers on the recently established Instagram page. Work is continuing to boost our presence on those sites.

9. Events Program

As foreshadowed in the Convenor's Report, there are only two proposals for the autumn program, both of which are to be confirmed, namely the Hawker Primary School Fete and a bird walk. We discussed whether there could be sufficient plants of interest in autumn to warrant a wildflower walk.

Action: John to ask John Fitz Gerald whether he'd be willing to lead a walk, and to contact Hawker Primary to check whether they will hold a fete this year.

10. Molonglo Watermain

Plans for the ongoing revegetation and weed control along the pipeline corridor were agreed in principle between ACT Government's Infrastructure Delivery Partners (IDP) group, Parks and Conservation Service and ourselves after a final inspection on 4th December. Fotpin will take responsibility for part of the corridor and is expected to receive approximately \$12,000 to assist with this work. The formal agreement has yet to be finalized.

More details can be found in the [Convenor's Report](#).

11. Groundcover Revegetation Project Report ([Attachment D](#))

Len had circulated his report before the meeting and summarised the key points, including:

- an update on progress of previous plantings;
- new plantings and propagation carried out;
- identification of new planting sites;
- the importance of weed control around the new plantings.

He also added that the plastic fences, though inexpensive, were turning out to have a few problems that needed addressing.

John said that he would see if PCS had any ground cover seeds for sowing and contact GCG for any available grants to apply for funding for the revegetation projects in Weetangera paddock.

12. Other Business

nil

13. Proposed date for next meeting and AGM

The AGM is scheduled for mid-May and it was agreed that we should plan for an in-person meeting and hope that the Covid pandemic situation allowed it. The next Committee meeting will be held immediately before it as has been past practice.

The suggested date is Sunday 16th May.

Warren said that changes to the rules for using ".org" domain names could require a small change to our Rules. If so, he will prepare the case for the committee to discuss out of session.

Action: Warren to clarify issues around our eligibility for the ".org" domain and take any necessary steps

Action: Warren and John to organise AGM

Meeting closed at 9-05 pm.

Warren Bond
Fotpin Secretary
15th February 2021

**Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence since November 2020 meeting
ParkCare**

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
		11 th Nov	ParkCare Christmas Party
		18 th Nov	Staffing changes
John Brannan	Marty Bajt	25 th Nov	Requesting some gloves
Marty Bajt	John Brannan	27 th Nov, 30 th Nov	Glove availability
Scott Ryan		12 th Jan	New Parkcare appointments and roles
John Brannan	Scott Ryan	17 th Jan	Welcoming to the role and asking for the Saturday weeding entry on the HUB schedule to be corrected
Len Taylor	Marty Bajt	19 th Jan	Requesting mulch for new planting
Marty Bajt		23 rd Jan	Tree guards and water tanks
Marty Bajt		27 th Jan	On annual leave until Feb 8th
Scott Ryan		29 th Jan	Dates for Convenors meetings in February
Len Taylor	Marty Bajt	31 st Jan	Request for more mulch and water cube top-up
John Brannan	Scott Ryan	1 st Feb	Enquiring about availability of dabbing bottles and whether the seller of wicking wipers is on the PCS preferred suppliers list
Scott Ryan	John Brannan	2 nd Feb	Positive responses to above.

Scott Ryan: Volunteer Programs Manager

Marty Bajt: ParkCare Ranger:

Sally Hatton: RangerAssist Coordinator

Lisa Testoni: Director of Volunteers and Visitor Experience

PCS Rangers

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Len Taylor	Craig Wainwright	12 th Nov	Issues of grass seeding
Kelzang Tshering	Len Taylor, Secretary	17 th Nov	Infirmiting of action taken regarding Part of Eastern Paddock Being Claimed as Private Property
Warren Bond	Kelzang Tshering	3 rd Dec	Informing of reported tree down across the Boundary Track
Kelzang Tshering	Warren Bond	13 th Dec	Response to above and update on the tree on the Tully boundary fence in Bottom Pinnacle
Len Taylor	Kelzang Tshering	24 th Jan	Informing of new planting of sedges in Weetangera paddock
Craig Wainwright	John Brannan	28 th Jan	Advising of proposed environmental burns in the Extension
John Brannan	Craig Wainwright	29 th Jan	Accepting offer of an onsite visit to discuss the proposed burns
Craig Wainwright	John Brannan	29 th Jan	Suggesting dates for a site visit
Warren Bond	Kelzang Tshering	31 st Jan	Informing of tree down across the Macrorhyncha Track
Len Taylor	Steve Taylor (weeds officer)	2 nd Feb	Suitable Poison for Killing Sorrel in Native Grasses
Kelzang Tshering	Warren Bond	3 rd Feb	Advising of removal of tree (plus another) and clearing around <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> sign.
Craig Wainwright	John Brannan	4 th Feb	Feedback from environmental burn discussions
Warren Bond	Kelzang Tshering	6 th Feb	Another tree across a track (Springvale)

* Kym Birgan: Acting Senior Ranger, Northside:

* Kelzang Tshering: Pinnacle Ranger:

* Craig Wainwright: Offsets Ranger:

Ginninderra Catchment Group

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Kathryn McGilp		13 th Nov	National Priority List for Exotic Environmental Pests, Weeds and Diseases
Kathryn McGilp		17 th Nov	Southern ACT Catchment Group is hosting a demonstration of their new steam-weeder
John Brannan	Kathryn McGilp	17 th Nov	Contact changes at GCG?
Kathryn McGilp		1 st Dec	Call for photos for Year Book
Kathryn McGilp		18 th Dec	Minutes of AGM
Kathryn McGilp		18 th Dec	GCG 'Year in Review' report
Kathryn McGilp		27 th Jan	Meeting schedule for 2021

* Kathryn McGilp: Catchment Coordinator (from 1st July)

* Julian Low: Finance Officer

Pipeline

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Tim Berriman		5 th Nov	Reminder of pipeline inspection on 6 th Nov
Michael Mulvaney		9 th	Comments on inspection on 6 th Nov and recommendations for revegetation
Tim Berriman		10 th Nov	Report of inspection on 6 th Nov
Steve Taylor		27 th Nov	Comments on risk of exotic species incorrectly sown, as requested by Mulvaney
Tim Berriman		2 nd Dec	Reminder of inspection on 4 th December
John Brannan	Stuart Oxborrow	22 nd Dec	Proposed Fotpin Molonglo Pipeline Agreement with ACT Infrastructure Development
Stuart Oxborrow	John Brannan	15 th Jan	Acknowledging above and conditionally accepting our proposal
John Brannan	Stuart Oxborrow	18 th Jan	Response to above, plus enquiring about plant watering
John Brannan	Tim Berriman	21 st Jan	Enquiring about plant watering
Tim Berriman	John Brannan	21 st Jan	Responding that plant watering about to commence
Tim Berriman	John Brannan		Confirming watering schedule

* Tim Berriman: Calibre (overseeing pipeline contract compliance)

* Stuart Oxborrow: Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Delivery, TCCS

* Steve Taylor: PCS Weeds Officer

Miscellaneous

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Len Taylor	Paula Doyle, Uni. Canberra	12 th Nov	Arranging a meeting about future proofing plantings for the ACT
Jenny Andrews, FOAB		30 th Nov	Change of Convenor at Friends of Aranda Bushland: Kevin McCue
Jenny Andrews, FOAB		2 nd Dec	New FOAB email address: secretary@friendsofmandabushland.org.au
Julia Raine, Friends of Mulligans Flat		8 th Jan	Mulligans Flat Draft Strategy out for public comment
Jonah Morris	Warren, John	15 th Jan	Drawing our attention to the Stronger Communities Programme
John Brannan	Jonah Morris		Thanking for drawing above to our attention
Mark Travers	Warren, John	21 st Jan	Enquiry about a one-off volunteer project by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
John Brannan	Mark Travers	25 th Jan	Recommending contacting Volunteer Programs who are better able to manage such a large group of volunteers

Attachment B Convenor's Report

Convenor's Report

February 2021

In my last report in November, I remarked on the contrast between this Summer and last year's horror season, and that contrast continues to be stark. Our January rainfall was well above average and the total for February is already north of 100 mm after less than a week! After months of good rainfall, the reserve is looking lush and green, and now that the early profusion of Wild Oats has dried off, many of the native grasses are coming into their own, as are the native daisies.

Weed control has been an uphill struggle this year, with profuse germination of Verbascum, saffron thistle and hoary mustard taking the place of the Paterson's Curse we saw in early Spring. Our weeding teams have put in a total of 272 hours over the last three months, which is well up on the same period last year, but the profusion of the different weed varieties have forced us to focus on the better-quality areas rather than try to blanket the entire reserve as we have in less challenging years. Even so, our efforts in previous years mean that we are suffering far less than some of our neighbours. Some of you may have heard Sarah Hnatiuk, the Convenor of the Friends of Mount Painter, talking to Adrienne Francis on the local radio the other morning, discussing the terrible infestations of saffron thistle on Mt Painter. By comparison, our thistle patches have been far less widespread and profuse, an outcome that owes much to our efforts to prevent seed-drop in previous years.

Another outcome of the excellent season has been a profuse breeding season among the birds. It seems that almost everywhere I go on the reserve just recently, I see young birds being fed by their overworked parents. Some of the smaller birds have bred multiple times in response to the continued rainfall. One of the more significant breeding events was the first recorded instance of Gang Cockatoos nesting at the Pinnacle (see below). Other unusual breeding species this year included Rufous Songlarks and White-throated Geryones. It will be interesting to see which of these Summer visitors return to breed again next year.

1. Molonglo Watermain Revegetation

We held our final inspection of the pipeline corridor revegetation on December 4th last year, during which some decisions were made that will affect the future revegetation of the corridor and the involvement of the Friends of the Pinnacle in that work. The inspection was attended by myself and Warren from fotpin, Andrew Halley representing PCS, representatives from the primary contractor (Calibre) and the revegetation contractor (Ables), and Stuart Oxborrow, Senior Engineer representing the ACT Government's Infrastructure Delivery Partners (IDP) group in the Transport, Communications and City Services Directorate (TCCS).

It was decided that, for ongoing management purposes, the corridor will be divided into three sections: Top, Middle and Bottom; Top being the section from the Icon water tanks compound off Springvale Drive, including the compound itself, down to the junction west of the dam referred to as Four-ways; Middle being the section from Four-ways down to the reserve boundary fence; and Bottom being the remaining length of the corridor in the Bottom Pinnacle, from the reserve boundary south to William Hovell Drive.

Fotpin will be responsible for ongoing weed management along the Top section, and the Bottom section will be managed by PCS. Management of the Middle section will be jointly undertaken by PCS and IDP with the aim of restoring an acceptable level of native understorey and groundcover species survival consistent with the surrounding vegetation. They will consult with outside contractors with experience in restoring native vegetation communities (e.g. Greening Australia)

to achieve this goal. Fotpin will also be kept informed of the progress of the restoration work so that we can coordinate our weed control efforts with the restoration work to best effect. It was also agreed that Ables would continue to keep the water up to the planted trees and shrubs along the entire pipeline corridor through to the end of February 2021.

Also discussed was the possibility of fotpin receiving funding to support our work both in managing weeds along the pipeline corridor and in maintaining a supply of native grass and forb seed to use in future revegetation work where appropriate and when seasonal conditions are right. This was discussed by the committee and, after consulting with outside experts on the topic, we concluded that the sum of \$12,000 would be sufficient for us to ensure that we have an adequate supply of native seed for this project and as well as the equipment needed to monitor our activities and apply the necessary weed control measures.

I received confirmation on January 15th that our request for funding had been approved and that the funds would be forthcoming as soon as the details of the payment mechanism could be finalised.

The best use of this funding is still under discussion, but our current plans include using the exclosures from the Native Grass Restoration project to establish plots where we can grow native grasses and forbs from seed and then use the seedlings in our revegetation work along the top section of the pipeline corridor. We also have the option of broadcasting seed directly onto suitable areas when the conditions are right. This is quite an exciting opportunity to significantly improve the ecological values of the areas concerned and to establish islands of native grasses and forbs that will, with a little care, have a positive ecological impact on the surrounding vegetation communities. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone interested in helping out with this project.

2. Vegwatch Monitoring Project

On a related topic, John Fitz Gerald and I have been conducting detailed vegetation surveys using the [Vegwatch methodology](#) at a plot in Kama Paddock since 2011, and we established a second Vegwatch vegetation monitoring plot in the pipeline corridor at the end of 2019. At that point, the new plot consisted almost entirely of the sterile grass sown to hold the soil together until other (native) grasses and forbs could get established. The 2020 survey of the same plot, conducted in early November, saw us fighting our way through dense head-high Wild Oats in search of other species that might have managed to out-compete the rampaging introduced grasses. The results of the survey were predictably disappointing – hardly any established native grasses or forbs – and it will be interesting to see whether we can somehow encourage greater levels of success by native plants in the years to come. The original Vegwatch plot at the northern end of Kama paddock continues to gradually improve as our weeding efforts bear fruit, though there was a predictable spike in the numbers of saffron thistle and Paterson's Curse this year.

3. Pinnacle Extension

Under the watchful eye of Offsets Ranger Craig Wainwright, the Pinnacle Extension is slowly improving as the plantings take hold and the weed control efforts start to pay dividends. John Fitz Gerald and I met with Craig in the extension on February 3rd to discuss a couple of ecological burns that are planned for this year. The burns are now at the top of the action list for the Fire Management Unit and will happen as soon as conditions are right. Which might be quite some time if we continue to get the sort of rainfall we've seen so far this year. The purpose of the burns is to suppress weed growth, particularly the introduced grasses and the recent flush of Saffron Thistle, so that the struggling native grasses and forbs in those areas have a clear run to grow and set seed. We also discussed slashing some Saffron Thistle growing in the middle of a particularly

nice patch of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) and Craig (being Craig) got stuck in and slashed it the very next day.

We very much hope that the ecological burns get done soon, both for the benefits they will generate for the extension and for the opportunity to learn from the experience in the hope that such burns can become a more widely used tool for managing ecological communities in our reserves.

4. Gang Gangs at the Pinnacle

You may be familiar with Gang Gang Cockatoos and their famous [“creaky-door” call](#), but thus far, they’ve only been occasional visitors to the Pinnacle, despite being resident in Aranda bushland and on Black Mountain, which are pretty close as the cockatoo flies, after all.

During my monthly bird surveys at the end of December last year, I spotted a male Gang Cockatoo sitting quietly on the branch of a dead tree in the middle of an open area in Weetangera paddock. It occurred to me then that he might be scouting the area for a nest site. Quite coincidentally, Tom Cochrane, who regularly works in that area with Len, emailed me a few days later to say that he and Len had been watching a pair of Gang Gangs regularly visiting a hollow in the same tree for a few weeks at least. At that point, long-time Pinnacle birder Barbara Allan and I started to take this seriously and contacted former COG President Chris Davey, who has been closely watching Gang Gang behaviour in Canberra for many years and was Project Manager for COG’s Gang Gang Survey. He was very interested in our observations and promptly set up camp not far from the suspected nest tree.

Before long, it became clear that the adult pair were feeding at least one young bird in a nest built in a west-facing hollow in the dead tree. The youngster was christened “Nigel” and was watched carefully on an almost daily basis for several days. Eventually, Nigel emerged from the hollow and showed his face (see photo), but refused to take flight, despite the cajoling efforts of his parents.



A few days later, I watched with a sinking heart as the female spent several minutes trying to coax Nigel out of the hollow, without success. This was not a good sign, and sure enough, when Chris went to the nest site a few days later and used his mirror-on-a-stick contraption to take a photograph of the inside of the hollow, the face peering up at him from its depths belonged to a possum, not a Gang Gang.

So, while we can't be sure, the most likely outcome is that Nigel is no more, as they say. However, again quite coincidentally, a few days later I spotted another Gang Gang family in Hawker paddock who appear to have a female youngster, already out of the nest and fending for herself, albeit closely watched by her adoring parents. So it seems that we did have at least one successful breeding pair of Gang Gang Cockatoos at the Pinnacle this year. Let's hope they return next year with even more success!

5. Upcoming Events

- **Hawker Primary School Fete -- TBC**

- **Autumn bird walk – TBC**

John Brannan
7 February, 2021

Attachment C. Treasurer's Report

Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-November-2020 to 07-February-2021

Opening balance on 01-November-2020			\$2,417.34
Receipts			
Interest credit 30 Nov 2020	\$0.11		
		\$0.11	
Payments			
No payments made during period	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	
Surplus/deficit of receipts over payments			\$0.11
Closing balance on 07-February-2021			\$2,417.45
Reconciled to:			
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$2,235.10		
Petty Cash	\$182.35		
		\$2,417.45	
Total		\$2,417.45	
Other Liabilities			
Reimbursement of groundcover restoration expenses to Len Taylor (approved; claim submitted; cheque not yet written)	\$180.02		
Financial position at 07-February-2021		\$2,237.43	

Notes:

1. Total value of all funds held and administered for Fotpin by Ginninderra Catchment as at 30 April 2020 : \$8,243.56 (estimated)
Funds are largely 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).
2. \$1,300 of the funds held in the Fotpin bank account are a donation from the Harden-Murrumburrah Landcare Group to be spent on interpretative signage

Mike Hall
Treasurer
7th February 2021

Attachment D Weetangera Groundcover Revegetation Project Progress Report

The plastic mesh fences with surrounding branches are still doing their job. There was an unidentified scat inside the large one with no damage done to the plants. Grass growing under the fence had pushed up the bottom of the fence but there has been no signs of rabbit intrusion. So it continues to be of huge benefit to us. A macropod, most probably a roo, has been inside the plastic guard fence but no damage done as the *Microlaena* has old growth (which is not that desired by roos) and the *Themeda* is still in its wire guard.

Previously Planted Tube stock

Some *Microlaena* recruitment continues

Tube Stock Planted

About 142 tall sedge have been planted in a very weedy area so we are trying to suppress the weeds with a thick layer of mulch. About 37 *Themeda* have been planted inside the new large fence and 2 in the red leg area near the water cube.

Tube Stock Germination

We were not successful in germinating the old seed which was donated to us. The successful *Themeda* was fresh seed from the single plant in my vegetable patch. The sedge seeds collected by John Fitz Gerald were very viable so we donated the young seedlings that were excess to our needs to the botanic gardens.

Direct Seeding

The *Microlaena* and White top wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma caespitosum*) sown inside the small fence were invaded by sorrel. This was sprayed with MCPA which I have since found out will yellow off *Microlaena* and not kill all the sorrel underground runners. It remains to be seen whether this young *Microlaena* will grow back as a mature plant should.

The large enclosure was sown with Red Leg and a few *Themeda*, both older seeds donated by Ken Hodgkinson. There is no sign of these coming up.

Sites for Seeding

At present we have three sites for future seeding. These have been generally bare of vegetation since the hazard reduction burn and we have been keeping weeds out. I think that *Microlaena* is the most suitable grass for these areas and is a good coloniser.

Weeding

The key to regeneration of the ground cover is weed control, which is largely what we do. With hindsight I made the mistake of trying to eliminate Cape weed from the Weetangera paddock. This took so long that other weeds were allowed to grow and seed. The increased rainfall has also meant that more weeds have germinated. We intend to review what we are doing and make a plan of action so that we can work more efficiently.

The worst weed we have had to contend with is sorrel as it loves the loose acid soil, is virtually impossible to hand weed and we have not yet found a poison to eliminate it from amongst native ground cover. However Tom now has ChemCert and is prepared to spray glyphosate which will kill the sorrel.

Unfortunately one of our more regular weeders, Chantal, now has too many other commitments and will no longer be joining us.

Len Taylor

6th February 2021