



## Coordinating Committee Meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 7-30 pm [by Zoom video conference]

### Minutes

**Present:** John Brannan (Convenor), Warren Bond, Denise Hall, Mike Hall, Alana Wilkes

#### 1. Apologies

Len, who couldn't get Zoom to work; Alana who had to leave early.

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

It was moved by John and seconded by Alana that the Minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2020 be accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting.

**Agreed.**

#### Consideration of Actions carried forward from previous meetings:

##### 20161205: Item 11 (e)

###### ii. Member Survey

**Action: Warren and Margo** to draft a survey to determine members' communication preferences.

No further progress. It was agreed to indefinitely defer this item. **Closed.**

##### 20170306: Item 14 (b) FOMP – Belconnen Hills Strategy

**Action:** This item cannot be progressed until PCS has finalised its Landscape Classification Assessment.

Action pending. It is hoped that the finalisation of the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan may allow this to be progressed.

It was agreed to indefinitely defer this item because progress is being hampered by the Covid pandemic and no resolution is expected in the foreseeable future. **Closed.**

John will, however, continue to monitor and bring it back to the agenda when appropriate.

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

**Action:** John to continue to follow up.

John has contacted Ranger Riko but there has been no action as yet.  
John will follow up again.

##### 200803: Item2 Outstanding Action items;

Actions arising from completion of 20200504: Item 12 (d) Weed experiment (2010-2012) plots

**Warren** to arrange the removal of the dangerous star picket outside the grass experiment enclosures before any more ranger's tyres are destroyed  
**Completed**

**Warren** to contact Richard Duncan to see if he has further use  
**Completed**

**All** to consider further uses for the areas inside the exclosures.

It was agreed that the remaining exclosures inside the Reserve be kept and used as either seedling nurseries or be sown to native grasses (after thoroughly killing all weeds) and allowed to act as a seed source for the surrounding areas. **Closed**

**20200803: Item 12 (a) National e-deposit Scheme**

**Action:** Warren to lodge any documents not already lodged and continue to lodge them as they are produced.

**Completed**

**20200803: Item 12 (d) The Pinnacle Extension**

**Action:** John to attempt once more to arrange a meeting with the new Offsets Ranger in charge of the Extension, Craig Wainwright.

**Completed**

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

Noted.

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

- Ranger changes: New Pinnacle Ranger: Kelzang Tshering; Riko has taken a ranger position in Namadgi National Park and is no longer acting Senior Ranger Northside; that position is temporarily held by Kym Birgan/Leith Collard
- Len has contacted Ranger Kelzang with his concerns about the takeover by horse people of a corner of Eastern paddock; no response as yet;

**Action:** John to follow up with Kelzang and Andrew Halley

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

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

- Joint ParkCare Display at the Jamison Centre, September 11-13
- Planning Meetings
- Spring Events Program
- Molonglo Pipeline Restoration work
- ParkCare and Politics.

He also reported at the meeting on the acquisition of 50 tubestock from Greening Australia for replacement of plants which have died in the 2019 Bottom Pinnacle planting. Ranger Riko had offered that PCS would fund them. John said expected to organize the planting of these in the next few days.

Noted.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Mike had previously circulated the [Financial Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> October](#).

The item "Reimbursement of groundcover restoration expenses to Len Taylor: \$180.02" is reconciled to previous decisions of the Committee in the table below.

The Committee confirmed this reimbursement of Len's expenses.

Mike also reported that he had the bank account signatory changes required by his replacing Margo underway and expected them to be completed in the next few days.

**Reconciliation of reimbursed expenses to Len Taylor**

Plastic fencing (approved by email July and confirmed at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug meeting)	\$79.50
Soil Wetter (peat) (approved at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug Meeting)	\$11.20
pH Test Kit (up to \$50 approved at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug Meeting)	\$18.30
Potting mix (in principle approval without quote at 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug Meeting)	\$50.00
Soil Wetter (Seasol) (approved by Committee by email 12 <sup>th</sup> Sep)	\$21.02
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$180.02</b>

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

John agreed to put Mike in touch with the appropriate staff member(s) in Ginninderra Catchment Group to enable him to maintain an up to date record of fotpun funds held for us by GCG.

**Action:** John to organize contact with GCG for Mike

**6. Membership Report**

Warren reported that our current membership is 105, an increase of 4 since the last meeting. As there are 4 members on the books who we have lost contact with, this marks the milestone of exceeding 100 members with whom we are in contact.

The number of other people who have requested to be on our email lists increased by 12 to 206, making the total on our email lists of 311.

**7. Weed Management**

Warren reported that the huge amount of weed growth on the Reserve this season is reflected in the amount of weed control effort expended in the last 3 months (146 hours), which is the largest total for this 3 month period since 2015-16. It was quite a lot less than the average of the 6 seasons up to that (212 h), but was spent entirely on the Reserve.

The main weeds dealt with were Miscellaneous Broadleaf weeds (42 h) which include Prickly Lettuce, Mustard, Sorrel, Storksbill and various flatweeds. Capeweed (29 h) received the next most effort followed by Exotic grasses (23 h), Saffron Thistles (20 h) and Other thistles (18 h). Together these made up 90% of the effort. 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, the latter now totalling 660 native species (including 201 native plant species).

The number of unique visitors in the 3 months since August 1<sup>st</sup> has averaged 260 per month, a 25% increase on the previous 3 month period and a 69% increase on the corresponding period last year. The monthly number is now the highest it's been for 4 years. This improvement seems to be largely on the back of recent interest in walking on the Reserve with visits to the track map pages accounting for 80% of the increase over last year.

"Walking Tracks" was the most sought after page on our site in that period (195 unique views), followed by "Recent Weeding" (125 unique views), "About the Pinnacle" (124 unique views), "Plants of the Pinnacle" (121 unique views), "Newsletters" (105 unique views), the "Walking" home page (66 unique views), the "Flora & Fauna" page (56 unique views), the mobile-friendly track map (51 unique views) and the "Calendar" (45 unique views).

## b. Social Media

Denise and Alana reported that we have 146 likes on our facebook page and 17 followers on the recently established Instagram page. Work is continuing to boost our presence on those sites.

Denise and Alana also arranged to contact Paris Lord to seek his advice on making better use of social media.

## 9. Events Program

Reports of the spring events were contained in John's [Convenor's Report](#).

He added that the second bird walk was very successful, yielding a different set of birds, so he planned to continue the practice next spring.

## 10. Molonglo Watermain

John and Warren provided an update of progress on the restoration of the pipeline corridor. More details are included in the [Convenor's Report](#).

A decision on handover from the contractor to fotpin for the next 2 years of maintenance was planned to have been made by now but has been delayed because of the poor condition of the restoration. The timing of handover and who it will be handed over to (fotpin or PCS) is being reviewed monthly, with the next review date set for 4<sup>th</sup> December. Fotpin will have to decide if it has the capacity to take on this maintenance given that, owing to the botched restoration effort, the scope of the task will far exceed what was envisaged when we first contemplated such a course of action.

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

Len had circulated his report before the meeting but was unable to connect to the Zoom meeting to present it.

Key points included:

- survival of previously planted tubestock
- new tubestock planting
- status of seed propagation in the "nursery"
- new direct seeding in two exclosures

Report noted.

Proposed expenditure

- Len's report foreshadowed a plan to buy \$500 of grass seed to sow when conditions are right in the 2021 autumn
- He proposed to raise funding for them through a grant if possible, but asked the Committee to agree to meet the expenses from the project funds held by GCG if other requests for funding were not successful, so that planning and preparation could proceed.

The Committee agreed to underwrite the funding of approximately \$500 for seeds as proposed in Len's report, but asked for clarification of how big an area this amount of seed would cover and whether it was proposed for existing exclosures or elsewhere and whether additional expenditure was required for fencing.

Because Len was unable to connect to the meeting he answered the first question by email to the Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> November to the effect that \$500 worth of a suitable mix of seeds from Greening Australia would cover an area of 90 square meters. On 16<sup>th</sup> November he advised that new exclosure(s) would be required.

**12. Other Business**

nil

**13. Proposed date for next meeting**

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 at Mike and Denise's place.

**Meeting closed** at 9 pm.

Warren Bond

Fotpin Secretary

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence since August 2020 meeting ParkCare

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Alison McLeod		4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Dates for ParkCare Convenor Meetings
ParkCare convenors		4 <sup>th</sup> Aug to	Ongoing discussions related to interactions of volunteer groups with ParkCare and PCS
Alison McLeod		5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Annual Planning Meetings arrangements
John Brannan	Marion Lynch	14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Enquiry about the ACTIA Insurance cover for Parkcare
Alison McLeod		18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	ParkCare Northside Convenors Meeting Agenda
Alison McLeod		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Draft minutes of fotpin annual planning meeting
Alison McLeod		8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Convenors meeting Minutes
Len Taylor		26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Enquiring about Hamilton Tree Planter

\* ParkCare Coordinator: Alison McLeod

\* ParkCare Ranger: Marty Bajt

\* Parkcare Administrative Support Officer: Monica Sirel

### PCS Rangers

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Riko Ahlers		3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	ParkCare trailer key procedure
John Brannan	Craig Wainwright	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Suggesting a meeting to discuss status of work in Pinnacle Offset/Extension.
Craig Wainwright	John Brannan	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Suggested date and discussion topics for meeting about Offset
John Brannan	Craig Wainwright	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Confirmation of meeting arrangements
Len Taylor	Riko Ahlers	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Return of post driver
Riko Ahlers	Warren Bond	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Update on removal of rock pile behind Hawker
Kym Birgan		17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Return of Andrew Halley to Ranger in Charge, Northside position; Appointment of Riko Ahlers to Seniors Ranger Northside position
Warren Bond	Craig Wainwright	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Weed and Rabbit maps for Extension; removal of protruding star pickets outside Enclosure
Craig Wainwright	Warren Bond, John Brannan	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Summary of weed and rabbit treatment situation and other works planned for Extension
Warren Bond	Riko Ahlers	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Reply to Riko's message of 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug; updating on status of star pickets protruding outside Don's plots
Len Taylor	Riko Ahlers	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Update on Weetangera planting
Riko Ahlers	Warren Bond	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Reply to message of 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug; advising of new ra

Warren Bond	Riko Ahlers	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Bike Jump in Dam paddock; Fallen tree o BP/Tully fence
Riko Ahlers, Kelzang Tshering	Warren Bond	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Response to above
Craig Wainwright	Warren Bond, John Brannan	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Reserve visit with Kelzang Tshering
Riko Ahlers	Convenor, Secretary	27 Sep	Confirmation of minutes of 2020-21 Friends of the Pinnacle Annual Planning meeting
Warren Bond	Riko Ahlers, Kelzang Tshering	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Confirmation of removal of all protruding pegs in and around grass experiment exclosures
Riko Ahlers		28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Update on ranger positions
		29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PCS position on cubby building on Nature Reserves
Len Taylor	Kelzang Tshering	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Part of Eastern Paddock Being Claimed as Private Property
Len Taylor	Kelzang Tshering	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Follow-up: part of Eastern Paddock being claimed as private property

- \* Kym Birgan: Acting Senior Ranger, Northside:
- \* Riko Ahlers: Senior Ranger, Northside (from 17<sup>th</sup> Aug to 28<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- \* Pinnacle Ranger: Kelzang Tshering (from 17<sup>th</sup> Aug)
- \* Offsets Ranger: Craig Wainwright

### Ginninderra Catchment Group

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
Kathryn McGilp		4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Confirmation of letter sent from GCG member groups regarding Lawson Development
Kathryn McGilp		5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	EPBC Act Review Interim Report – call for comment
Len Taylor	Julian Low	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Asking if he had a record of purchase of potting mix from Greening Australia last year
Kathryn McGilp		14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Welcome to new Communications Officer, Jane Ryan
John Brannan	Kathryn McGilp	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Inviting Kat to our PCS annual planning meeting as an observer
Kathryn McGilp		21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Trial of SACTCG Steam Weeder
Kathryn McGilp		28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	General Meeting - All Groups Annual Review
Kathryn McGilp		28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Minutes from All Groups September Meeting
		30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	GCG Update

- \* Kathryn McGilp: Catchment Coordinator (from 1<sup>st</sup> July )
- \* Julian Low: Finance Officer

### Pipeline

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
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Tim Berriman		15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	August inspection report
Tim Berriman		17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Confirmation of native seed mix used
Warren Bond	Tim Berriman	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Suggestions for keeping people off the regeneration areas
Warren Bond	Tim Berriman	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Pointing out the need to address bare areas and requesting confirmation that the seed mix used for the re-sowing was the same as originally used
Tim Berriman	Warren Bond	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Confirming that the seed mix for the February re-sow was the same as used originally and that bare areas would be oversown with “sterile rye”.
Riko Ahlers	Warren Bond, John Brannan	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	PCS recommend that FotPin try and get an established restoration/rehabilitation specialist (e.g. Greening Australia) to take on the 2 year restoration project of the Pipeline
Tim Berriman		30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	September inspection report
Tim Berriman		9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	October inspection report (Michael Mulvaney [CRE] joined this inspection)
Stuart Oxborrow		28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Suggested procedure for handover of restoration

\* Tim Berriman: Calibre (overseeing pipeline contract compliance)

\* Stuart Oxborrow: Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Delivery, TCCS

\* Riko Ahlers: Senior Ranger, Northside (from 17<sup>th</sup> Aug to 28<sup>th</sup> Oct)

#### Miscellaneous

From	To (if specific)	Date	Subject
WPS	John Brannan	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Cancelation of Weetangera Primary School Fete
Len Taylor	Nindethana Seed Company	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Requesting information on appropriate pH for native seed germination
	Native Seeds company	8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Requesting information on appropriate pH for native seed germination
Andrew.O'Reilly-Nugent	Warren Bond	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Reply to email of 28 <sup>th</sup> July about protruding star pickets outside enclosure plots
John Brannan	various	5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Parkcare Jamison Centre Display arrangements
Member of public	Secretary	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Seeking advice on African Lovegrass
Member of public	John Brannan	13 <sup>th</sup> OCT	Seeking information on fotpin position on kids' stick forts and why we were pulling them down
John Brannan	Member of Public	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reply to above, and recommending he contact PCS (giving Riko's email address)
Len Taylor	Greening Australia	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Seeking Advice on Regeneration
Linda Roberts		2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	2021 Heritage Festival



## Attachment B Convenor's Report

### Convenor's Report

November 2020

I don't think there could possibly be a more stark contrast between the condition of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve right now and the way it looked at this time last year. It has already been said many times that 2020 is the year of the unprecedented, and that word has been unavoidable as I have walked around the reserve in the last few months. Never before have we seen such a profusion of orchids and other wildflowers, nor the flourishing stands of native grasses. On the other hand, weeds such as Paterson's Curse, Capeweed and Saffron Thistle (to name just a few) are also enjoying a vigorous season. The efforts of our weed control teams have kept something of a lid on the weed infestations so far, but it is clear that we are going to have a challenging season in the months to come.

The Friends of the Pinnacle have been active in other ways both on the reserve and out in the community, as outlined below.

#### 1. Joint ParkCare Display at the Jamison Centre, September 11-13

At one point, it looked like we weren't going to have this event this year due to COVID restrictions, but Canberra's excellent response to the pandemic meant that the event was able to proceed. Fotpin was one of six groups taking part in this year's display, and the local shoppers passing were notably more interested in the display than in previous years, largely due to the fact that so many of them have been spending more time at their local reserves since COVID struck. This being an election year, a number of MLAs also put in a (brief) appearance. This event continues to be a valuable opportunity for ParkCare groups to reach out to the community and raise awareness of the local reserves and the role that ParkCare groups play in maintaining and improving the ecological values of the reserves. As usual, the Fotpin volunteers did an outstanding job of staffing the display, punching well above their weight yet again and I would like to thank all those who gave up some of their time to help out. I also need to acknowledge the huge amount of work done by Jean Geue of FOAB and Linda Beveridge of FOBM in coordinating the display. Jean in particular has always been the driving force in making this event happen and continues to be a vital part of the organizing team.

#### 2. Planning Meetings

- *Pinnacle Extension (Offset), August 14th*

We were delighted to hear that our old mate Craig Wainwright had been appointed to the role of Offsets Ranger and wasted no time in organising an on-site meeting with him to discuss his plans for the Pinnacle Extension. Craig has brought his usual enthusiasm and energy to the role, coupled with many years of experience and a healthy dollop of common sense, and outlined his plans to consolidate the fencing around the new plantings in the offset and bring in contractors to spray out the already rampant Capeweed, Paterson's Curse and thistles. He noted that the diminishing budget allowances for extensions once the "establishment" phase is over means that now he only has limited funds available for weed control in the extension. He also set about dismantling the fencing around the exclusion plot left over from Don Driscoll's grassland restoration experiment. This has served to spearhead the removal by PCS of all the remaining exclusion plot fences in the paddocks outside the reserve proper (see below).

- *Annual Planning Meeting, September 3rd*

Our annual meeting with the PCS rangers took place, as usual, at the Mitchell Depot and was attended by myself, Warren, ParkCare Marty Bajt and District Rangers Riko Ahlers and Kelzang Tshering. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss our mutual plans for the year so that we can coordinate our efforts to get the best possible outcomes. The topics discussed included the upcoming handover of the maintenance contract for revegetation along the Molonglo pipeline, the track maintenance work at the reserve, the future of the fenced exclusion plots both inside and outside the reserve, the prospect of getting some interpretive signage at the reserve (a long-held aspiration of ours) and the proper lines of communication between ourselves and the different bits of PCS that we interact with. We also got to meet our new ranger, Kelzang Tshering, who is a native of Bhutan and comes with extensive experience in ecology and land management. At the meeting, we arranged a date for an on-site meeting with Kelzang to give him a proper introduction to the reserve. Also discussed was the approval of some funds for new tubestock to replace plants lost over the summer from the May 2019 planting in the Bottom Pinnacle.

### 3. Spring Events Program

- *Bird Walk (1), September 20th*

In a reflection of just how many more people have been visiting the reserve since COVID struck, close to 50 people signed up for my first bird walk of the season. To put this in perspective, I generally get around a dozen or so people for my guided walks. Much to my relief, the day of the walk dawned cold and wet following heavy overnight rain, so the number of people who actually turned up was a much more manageable 20 hardy souls. Despite the damp beginning, the walk turned out to be very rewarding, with a total of 32 species observed, including 4 species sitting on nests. Probably the most notable of these was the Tawny Frogmouth sitting on a nest in a very exposed location. Thanks to everyone who turned out in the dubious weather and to Alison Milton (as always) for her wonderful photos.



A nesting Tawny Frogmouth trying very hard not to be obvious



Lovely shot of a Yellow-rumped Thornbill

- *Wildflower Walk, October 10<sup>th</sup>*

John Fitz Gerald and Nola McKeown again led a group of almost 30 walkers on a very pleasant walk down to the southeast corner of the Pinnacle Extension, which features one of the most highly diverse selection of native grasses and forbs in the entire reserve. While it was too early to catch any of the orchids in bloom, many of the other wildflowers were putting on an excellent show, including countless Early Nancies, more young Blue Devils than I have ever seen in one place, and a veritable field of Billy Buttons. My thanks to John and Nola for again giving up their Sunday morning to conduct the walk.

- *Revegetation Workshop/Forum, November 1<sup>st</sup>*

Len and his team have put in many hours of work in this effort to re-establish a native groundcover in some of the burned areas of Weetangera Paddock, including everything from seed collection, propagation and planting through to fencing, watering and selective weeding around the planting sites. The result constitutes a trial of various different techniques for establishing and maintaining native grasses and forbs in a nature reserve. A total of 12 people attended this event, many of them representatives of other ParkCare groups around Canberra, and it proved to be an excellent opportunity for the visitors to relate their own experiences and share their knowledge on this topic. Re-establishing native groundcover species is undoubtedly the most challenging undertaking for land managers anywhere and I'd like to think that, through this work, we are making an important contribution to those efforts. My thanks to Len and all his team for all their hard work and to John Fitz Gerald for assisting Len with this presentation.

- *Bird Walk (2), November 8<sup>th</sup>*

Because so many people had signed up for my first walk, I felt justified in organising a second bird walk to provide another opportunity for those people who didn't make it to the earlier walk. This time however, I limited the walk to 20 people to make sure the number didn't become unmanageable. I was particularly happy to welcome our new ranger Kelzang along on

the walk. This time, the weather cooperated beautifully and we had a very pleasant stroll that included a visit to the dam, which has been a particularly busy spot for birds for the last few years. We recorded 42 species on the walk, with 9 species either building nests, sitting on nests or feeding youngsters. Highlights included watching a pair of Leaden Flycatchers busily building their nest while an Olive-backed Oriole was sitting on her newly completed nest a few yards away, and some lovely views of a White-throated Gerygone giving its beautifully melodic call.

#### 4. **Molonglo Pipeline**

In an ideal world, the handover of the revegetation work for the pipeline was to happen this month. In reality, this disappointing saga continues to drag on. At the latest on-site meeting, held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that the revegetation was still not ready to be handed over to Fotpin due to the relative absence of native grasses along the majority of the pipeline corridor. This situation has been aggravated by the latest attempts at re-seeding by the revegetation contractor, Ables. Based on what has emerged in the last 2-3 months, the seed used appears or have contained mostly species that were not specified for this project, including, most disappointingly, some perennial exotic grasses that are now likely to become a permanent fixture unless a lot more time and effort is spent spraying them out.

The current proposal is that the revegetation contract be handed over to Fotpin on condition that there is a reasonable amount of native grass cover and that there will be further inspections in 6 and 12 months' time to assess whether further reseeded or replanting of tubestock is required. For the time being, it has been agreed that any handover will wait until there is clearer evidence of established native grasses. Ables have also agreed to slash or mow the tall stands of introduced grasses now growing along each side of the pipeline so that any emerging native grasses have a chance to flourish. This slashing will also help to mitigate the extensive swathes of crimson clover that were also introduced in the latest round of re-seeding.

#### 5. **ParkCare and Politics**

In the lead-up to the recent ACT election, the combined ParkCare convenors have been lobbying politicians to get better resourcing for ParkCare groups and for the PCS rangers. One of our key demands was to get a second ParkCare ranger position established to take some of the burden off the horribly overworked Marty Bajt. Our hope was that the two ParkCare rangers would be based in the Northside and Southside PCS depots respectively and work alongside the area rangers. This would ensure that their work is better coordinated and simplify lines of communication. We were promised a second ParkCare ranger in 2018, only to find that the second ranger position was subsequently diverted into the Ranger Assist program, which is of minimal benefit to ParkCare groups and does nothing to ease the burden on Marty.

We had a videoconference with Minister Mick Gentleman on August 4<sup>th</sup> at which the Minister generally agreed with our position but made it clear that budget constraints did not allow for a second ParkCare ranger position. At the PCS Northside Convenor's meeting held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, we again raised our concerns about resourcing for ParkCare groups and floated the possibility of a pool of funding that groups could dip into for small on-reserve projects such as plantings. The meeting also covered the work being done by the Jobs for Canberra program (mostly track maintenance in our case), the management structure of PCS, opportunities for education and training, and the scheduling of annual planning meetings for each of the reserves.

On September 16, we had a videoconference with Maxine Cooper, Chair of the Landcare ACT, Karissa Preuss, CEO of Landcare ACT and former Coordinator of the Ginninderra Catchment

Group, and Martine Franco, Coordinator of the Southern ACT Catchment Group. Maxine promised to lobby the ACT Government on behalf of the ParkCare groups and gave us some useful tips on how better to channel our efforts. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, FOMM Convenor Jochen Zeil and I met with Elizabeth Lee, then Shadow Minister for the Environment in the ACT Government and now leader of the ACT opposition. She was sympathetic to our position and pointed out that, even from opposition, she could apply pressure on the government on our behalf.

We are yet to meet with anyone from the new government, but the appointment of a Greens representative, Rebecca Vassarotti, as Environment Minister and commitments by the Greens\* to substantial funding boosts for PCS funding to manage the Canberra Nature Park reserves (\$4M over 4 years), increased funding for weed and invasive species management (\$7.5M over 4 years), and increased funding for local environment-based volunteer groups (\$3.2M over 4 years) all bode well for the future.

\*: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-03/three-new-faces-in-act-labor-greens-ministry/12843378>

John Brannan  
November 9th, 2020

**Attachment C. Treasurer's Report**

**Statement of Receipts and Payments**  
**for the period 01-August-2020 to 31-October-2020**

<b>Opening balance on 01-August-2020</b>			<b>\$2,417.34</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Interest	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	
<b>Payments</b>			
No payments made during period	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	
Surplus/deficit of receipts over payments			\$0.00
<b>Closing balance on 31-October-2020</b>			<b>\$2,417.34</b>
<b>Reconciled to:</b>			
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$2,265.51		
Petty Cash	\$182.35		
		\$2,447.86	
Less unpresented Cheque	\$30.52		
Total		<b>\$2,417.34</b>	
<b>Other Liabilities</b>			
Reimbursement of groundcover restoration expenses to Len Taylor (approved; claim submitted; cheque not yet written)	\$180.02		
<b>Financial position at 31 October 2020</b>			<b>\$2,237.32</b>

**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  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## **Attachment D Weetangera Groundcover Revegetation Project Progress Report**

The plastic mesh enclosures are still keeping the grazers out, hopefully that will continue. Although they are not visually attractive in a nature reserve they are proving very handy for our team. It is now much easier to plant and to weed around the plants.

### **Previously Planted Tube stock**

With the exception of Red Leg these are all a success with some recruitment. The Red leg was planted late because of the lack of water. It appears that Red Leg are super sensitive to Glyphosate which was used to control the strong weed growth, consequently we lost some Red Leg.

### **Tube Stock Planted**

The Kneed Speargrass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*) was planted out (127 plants in large enclosure and 79 on bare gentle slope) have all survived and going to seed.

### **Tube Stock Germinating**

Between Tim and myself we are raising a few Sorghum, Themeda and Silver top Wallaby grasses as well as Tall Sedge

### **Direct Seeding**

Small enclosure was sown with seeds collected by John. Microlaena and a small patch of White top wallaby grass. These occupy less than a quarter of the enclosure. Both these are C3 grasses which would be safer sown in Spring but with the forecasted rainfall arriving they are doing well.

Large enclosure was sown with Red Leg and a few Themeda, both older seeds donated by Ken Hodgkinson. These were sown 4 weeks ago, at optimum time for Canberra. No sign of growth at the moment.

A very small patch of Yellow Burr Daisy was sown on the Springvale track, which if successful we might try to use to replace the Cape Weed as they are both spread by sticking to animals.

### **Decision for Committee.**

Because of La Nina it is expected that we will have above average rainfall this Summer and possibly Autumn. If we had sufficient stock of viable seeds for C4 grasses such as Themeda, Sorghum, Red leg and Barbed Wire Grass it would have been ideal to have sown them as Craig is now doing. I feel that it is too much of a rush for us to be doing that now as we would have to locate a good site and make sure that we could control the weeds. Also this would distract us from weeding around existing native ground cover which presently needs doing.

However, I would like to slowly start planning for seeding this Autumn by selecting suitable sites and controlling weeds. There is no point in doing this unless there is some guarantee of being able to buy the seeds. Whilst we would obviously apply for a grant there is no guarantee that we will get one. Thus I would like the committee to agree that we will buy a significant amount of seed for direct sowing if any bid is unsuccessful. As a rough estimate I would guess around \$500.

Len Taylor

8<sup>th</sup> November 2020