



Coordinating Committee Meeting
Monday 18th September, 2017 7-30 pm
Minutes

Present: John Brannan (Chair), Warren Bond, Margo Hellyer, Denise Hall, Keith Thomas, Alana Wilkes.

Meeting opened at 1930 and all were warmly welcomed by John.

1. **Apologies** – no apologies
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting / Business Arising**

It was moved by Warren and seconded by John, that the Minutes of the FOTPIN CC meeting held 23rd July 2017 be accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting. **CARRIED**

Actions arising

010916/Item 13 Restoration Plan (John)

Site details and schedule for an ecological burn are to be finalised with Ken Hodgkinson. No action to date.

Action: Ongoing.

051216/Item 10 Revegetation

Proposal for some planting in bottom Pinnacle – **John** proposed that this be postponed to Autumn 2108 as the moisture levels in the area are very low. No action to date.

Action: Ongoing

051216/Item 11 (e) Ideas for consideration for Information and outreach:

- i. Updates are coming and situation better than a year ago.
Action: Margo and Denise to consider Facebook as a means of providing a mechanism for news and other items.
- ii. **Action: Warren and Margo** to draft a survey to determine members' communication preferences.
No action to date - ongoing.
- iii. Involvement of students and other people in some FOTPIN activities (**John**). Refer agenda item 14a

060317/Item 11 (c) Interpretive signage: -

Keith followed up with Lois Padgham but with no response. A draft layout of information signs was provided at the Convenor's meeting, but only provided basic information. An alternative is to develop signage ourselves and use \$1,500 donated into FOTIN account for this purpose.

Action: Keith to continue to liaise with Lois and PCS about signage and start to approach suitable sponsors/sign writers about signs.

060317/Item 14 (b) FOMP – Belconnen Hills Strategy

John still talking to Sarah (of FOMP) and whole question is waiting for decisions from PCS at present.

Action: John - ongoing

050617/Item 14 (b) ACT Heritage Grant

John indicated that there was slow progress on this as evidenced in the correspondence report.

Action: John – ongoing.

050617/Item 14 (e) Declining interest of membership is a looming problem.

Still ongoing – what do other groups do? It was decided that we focus on the Social Media investigation and development of a survey of membership opinions.

Action: Facebook option to be investigated (**Margo**)

050617/Item 14 (f) Social Media

Denise to look at Facebook and Instagram as a way of connecting members to the activities of FOTPIN.

Action: ongoing in conjunction with Margo's investigations

3. Correspondence in and out / Business arising ([Attachment A](#))

The report was noted

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

John spoke to the report (previously circulated) and raised the following items:

- There were access issues surrounding the quarantining of the Whitlam pipeline route by the contractors. Access by walkers, kangaroos, and horse riders are issues to be considered (especially if the whole area is fenced off). **ACTION: John** to e-mail Leigh Crocker to raise these issues with him and to explore possible solutions.
- Revegetation of the pipeline area was also discussed (especially near the water tanks). **ACTION: John** to discuss this with Leigh Crocker and Michael Mulvaney.

5. Coordinator's Report

This was presented by Warren and noted. He indicated that it has been a very quiet time apart from some erosion concerns along the creek in Dam paddock, preparations are being made for better assessment of St John's Wort seed viability.

6. Treasurer's Report ([Attachment C](#))

Denise prepared a report on behalf of Margo – hand-over still to occur – and is to be circulated via e-mail.

Handover to occur post haste.

ACTION: Denise and Margo to do a hand over.

ACTION: Account signatories to be updated. **Warren** to arrange.

7. Membership Report

Warren reported that our current membership increased to 89, while the net number of other people who have requested to be on our email list decreased to 113, and the combined total (202) exceeded 200 for the first time.

8. Weed Management

Warren reported that the effort spent on weed control in the three months June to August was 56 hours, slightly more than last year.

9. Website

Warren reported that there were only minor changes and additions (as documented on the [website updates](#) page) in the last 3 months.

The number of unique visitors to the website in the last 3 months continued the decline shown in previous periods. The most popular pages in this period continued to be the "About the Pinnacle" page and walking related pages.

10. Revegetation

Currently on hold (refer Convenor's report).

11. Information and outreach

This was covered in item 2 above and the Convenor's report (Jamison display). However, it was considered that a small article be drafted after the next walk and posted on, say, a Facebook page, and that links to similar local walks be provide (e.g. ANBG and Friends of Black Mountain etc.).

Also, the display material should be updated with text on some photos and more photos, and QR codes in the text. **ACTION: John** to consider this.

12. Pinnacle Extension (Warren)

Nothing to report.

13. Whitlam Pipeline (John)

Refer Convenor's report. It is expected that contracts will be let in December 2017, with a possible start date of March/April 2018 and lasting 9-12 months. Construction work will occur from the Whitlam end and move up the hill to the water tanks.

14. Other Business

- a. **Belconnen High School excursion** - refer Convenor's report – quite successful and an ongoing activity with another one planned for later in the year which will onclude collecting tree guards.
- b. **PCS Code of Conduct and Volunteer Policy** – these were distributed to Committee members and all were encouraged to read and understand them. They are still a work in progress and some modifications will be made. ParkCare convenors are compiling suggestions for changes. These will be communicated to fotpin members when appropriate.
- c. **ParkCare Hub** – this on line facility has been established as a source of data for PCS staff and enables better protection for ParkCare volunteers via insurance cover and medical information. All volunteers working on the Pinnacle need to be registered and a message to our members will be issued. There will be 2 messages – a general one to all members and a definitive one to target groups (e.g. weeders) to make sure they are registered. **ACTION: John** to compose and issues these messages.

15. Proposed date and place for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4th December starting at 1930 (7:30pm).

Meeting closed at 2130.

Attachment A. Summary of Major Items of Correspondence between since July meeting

Date	Sender	Topic	Summary content
6 th Aug	John Brannan to membership	Joint Parkcare display	At Jamison Centre 8 th to 10 th Sept
9 th Aug	Warren Bond to Simon Stratford (Senoir Manager CNP – N)	Chemical use records to June 30 2017	ArcGIS Weeds Control Database
9 th Aug	Simon Strafford	fofpin Chemical use records to 30 June, 2017	Response to Warren's comments
9 th Aug and various	Nina Bruns	Annual Planning Meeting	Pinnacle Offset planning meeting 1 Sept
14 th Aug	John Brannan to Alison McLeod	2017 Eco Focus Seminar – 30 th August	Application to attend
17 th Aug	John Brannan to Mary Mudford	Heritage Grant application	Current progress on our application
17 th Aug	Suzanne Chu	Macquarie Primary outdoor classroom day	Plan for yr 3 class to participate in the outdoor classroom day on the 7 th September held all across Australia.
29 th Aug and various	John Brannan to Alison McLeod	Parkcare Hub	General discussion on provision of the new communications system between PCS and Parkcare volunteers
30 th Aug	Alison McLeod	Parkcare Hub	Response to John Brannan's comments
31 st Aug	Angela Calliess	ACT Landcare awards	Award nomination in the "Connecting Communities and Conservation" category of the ACT Landcare awards
31 st Aug	John Brannan to Lesley Harland and Rosemary Blemings	Spring walks program	Preparing a walks schedule
1 st Sept and various	John Brannan to Patricia Venegas	BHS Pinnacle Excursion	Providing support for excursion and Pinnacle involvement
4 th Sep and various	Leigh Croker	Watermain update and Hydro digging	Reporting on progress on the water pipeline from Weetangera to Whitlam through the Pinnacle Nature Reserve
4 th Sept	James Gray	Hydro-digging	Re: Planning for hydro dig at water tanks site
4 th Sept and various	John Brannan to a number of people	Hydro-digging and African Love Grass	Re: preparation for hydro dig at water tanks.

7 th Sept	Ann Milligan	GCG Newsletter	For information
8 th Sept	Alison McLeod	PCS Code of Conduct and Volunteer Policy	For discussion (item 14 b)
9 th Sept	Alison McLeod	First Aid training	For information and action (if deemed necessary)
13 th Sept	Between Karissa Preuss, Mary Gleeson and John Brannan	ACT Heritage Grant Application	Regarding Grant Application for \$1,000 and issues around Public Liability Insurances
18th Sept	John Brannan to Mary Gleeson	Heritage Grant	Accepting GCG's offer to auspice this grant.

Attachment B. Convenor's Report

Winter is supposed to be the quiet time of the year, but this winter has been anything but! There may not have been much happening up at the reserve, but in the background things have been proceeding very quickly and some of those developments will start to impact on the reserve and on our footpin ParkCare volunteers quite soon, as discussed below.

1. Whitlam Pipeline

Warren, Keith and I met with Leigh Crocker on August 23rd to discuss the progress of the project. The meeting included a more detailed look at the construction of the pipeline, including the measures that will be taken to avoid future erosion around the works where the pipeline crosses the creek, and more information on the width of the corridor that will need to be fenced off during the construction period. While some sections of the corridor will be 12 metres wide as we were initially told, some sections will need to be 20 metres wide to accommodate vehicle traffic while trench excavation is in progress. There will also be a number of temporary storage areas fenced off that will be used as depots for the sections of pipe and the sand and gravel that will form the bed for the pipe.

On the 30th, I met with Leigh, Michael Mulvaney, John Fitz Gerald, Greg Jones, a Senior Designer with GHD, the contractor for the design of the project, and PCS Senior Ranger Northside Simon Stratford up at the reserve. The purpose of this visit was to walk the length of the proposed corridor in the main reserve to finalise the route and discuss the best options available for rehabilitation of the different sections of the corridor. We made some final decisions about which trees should be removed and which should be retained, and it was recommended that any trees removed should be left as close as possible to the original site to provide habitat.

This led to another on-site meeting on September 12, again involving Michael and Simon, but this time also including PCS Ecologist Richard Milner. Richard has been supervising the restoration of Pink-tailed Worm Lizard habitat in the Molonglo Valley and has also been conducting trials of different grassland restoration methods in Kama Nature Reserve, in particular the method used by Greening Australia and Bush Heritage that involves scraping off the top few inches of topsoil and re-sowing the exposed subsoil with native grasses and forbs. The aim of this meeting was to make some final decisions regarding the best rehabilitation treatments for the excavated area and the adjacent areas that will be affected by the project. Richard began by suggesting that the large open area next to the existing water tanks, which is in generally poor condition and has been used in the past as a dumping area for road debris and metal, be entirely covered with subsoil unearthed during the trench digging to a depth of about 10 cm, and then native grasses, trees and shrubs be planted into it. Cassinia and acacia species were mentioned as possible candidates for planting in the area. The idea is that the subsoil will be relatively nutrient-low and weed-free and therefore suitable for native plantings.

The large phalaris patches near the creek, both up near the tanks and down at the bottom (which will be the site for a large storage area) will be planted mostly with eucalypts and shrubs, since planting groundcover species is unlikely to be successful given the density of the existing groundcover. Where the pipeline will run along the Valley track, Michael proposed that we get the contractors to agree to "rehabilitate" the two planned storage areas by scraping them and planting with native shrubs, trees and ground cover, as per what Richard has been doing in Kama and GA have been doing at Scottsdale. Richard then suggested that, if they're going to do that, then they might as well scrape the entire corridor area between the two storage areas along the Valley track and replant the lot, since the existing vegetation on both sides of the track there has little ecological value. The complicating factor there is the presence of the fenced enclosure plot from Don's grassland restoration experiments, and discussions are under way between Michael Mulvaney, the contractors and Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent on the best way to deal with that. The final section of the corridor from 4-ways down to the pumping (not) station will be planted with native trees, shrubs and grasses, though the large storage area proposed just uphill from the valve station was suggested as another candidate for scraping and re-seeding. (I have attached the latest summary from Michael of these discussions and a proposed list of plants to choose from.)

I have also asked Greg Jones to send me a map showing the final route and scope of the corridor through the reserve that we can distribute to the membership once the final details have been

fleshed out. This will also give us a chance to think about how we can assist the contractors to provide reserve users with ways to get around the fenced areas once construction begins.

On a related topic, we have also now established a good working relationship with Icon Water with respect to weed control around the Icon water tanks. On September 4th, John Fitz Gerald and I met with James Gray from Icon's Environment and Sustainability team to ensure that African Lovegrass seeds were removed from a site where excavations for new connecting pipes were planned. James, who used to work for Greening Australia, was very committed and eager to ensure that weed control within the Icon fenced area continues into the future. It is going to be very helpful to have James as a contact point within Icon Water.

2. PCS Volunteer Policy/Code of Conduct & the ParkCare Hub

At the PCS Convenors' meeting held at the PCS Stromlo depot on September 7th, PCS Community Programs Coordinator Alison McLeod gave out copies of the latest draft versions of the PCS Volunteer Policy and Code of Conduct for comment from the various ParkCare and Landcare group convenors. Both documents have been considerably simplified and shortened since their last appearance, and are largely uncontroversial, except for a provision in the Code of Conduct that requires volunteers to "agree not to talk to the media or make public or social media comments about incidents or operational matters on behalf of ACT Parks and Conservation/ParkCare or whilst displaying the ParkCare uniform and PCS logo."

Predictably, this caused problems with the assembled convenors and it was eventually agreed that PCS needs to define exactly what is meant by "incidents or operational matters" and "on behalf of ACT Parks and Conservation/ParkCare". It was pointed out that convenors often talk to the media on behalf of their "Friends of" groups and express views that may or may not accord with ACT Govt policy, and that they have every right to do so. So a clear distinction needs to be made between what relates to ParkCare groups (like fotpin) and what falls under this provision. Discussions (as they say) are ongoing...

More immediately relevant to us is the provision that requires all ParkCare volunteers who work in the reserve more than five times a year to register with PCS as ParkCare volunteers to ensure that PCS has all the information they need to ensure that they can manage volunteers safely and fulfil their legal obligations as volunteer managers. Volunteers who only turn up occasionally (5 times or less) and visitors who attend ParkCare events (such as guided walks) do not need to register but will still be asked to complete sign-on sheets as usual. The ParkCare Hub is a portal website that will be used for this volunteer registration process. The Hub will also act as a central focal point for all things ParkCare related, including news on upcoming events, recording volunteer effort and providing documents and other information that ParkCarers need access to. PCS were at pains to assure us that the site is not open to the public and that the volunteer information stored on the website can only be accessed by the administrators (including ParkCare group convenors or coordinators) and by the individual volunteers themselves. So once you've registered on the website, you can go in and modify/update your information whenever you like. The Hub is already up and running and you can view the Policy in full and register as a volunteer by clicking this link: [REGISTER HERE](#).

The good news is that registered volunteers are eligible for items in the new ParkCare volunteer wardrobe, which currently consists of hats, shirts, sweaters and hoodies with the ParkCare logo. Needless to say, wearing these items is entirely voluntary. □

3. Joint ParkCare Display at Jamison Centre, 8-10 September

This year's event went extremely well. Jean Geue handed over the coordination to Linda Beveridge from the Friends of Black Mountain this year, and Linda did an excellent job of organising the different groups involved, though Jean was still closely involved throughout, as always. As usual, a number of fotpin volunteers put their hands up to help out and there was also a good turnout from the other groups involved, so all the time slots had more than enough people. The participating groups were fotpin, FOAB, FOMP, FOG, CIMAG and the Friends of Black Mountain. My thanks to all the fotpins who volunteered their time at Jamo and to Elizabeth for helping to organise the materials for our display.

4. Upcoming Events

- As stated in the recent Spring Walks mail-out, we'll be holding two guided walks this Spring, my bird walk on September 24th and another wildflower walk to the offset on October 15th. John Fitz Gerald and Nola McKeon have generously agreed to be our guides for the offset walk.
- I've decided to postpone the planting event I was considering for this spring due to the prolonged dry conditions and BOM's long-range forecast for lower-than-average rainfall for the remainder of Spring and Summer. If the conditions improve in Autumn, I'll reconsider a planting event in the Bottom Pinnacle then.
- Another event on the horizon is a "Belconnen Day" visit to the Pinnacle by students from Belconnen High School, which is discussed in more detail below.
- Weetangera Primary generally holds its school fete in early November, but I have yet to hear from the school. Based on past years, it will probably be on Sunday November 12th, but this is yet to be confirmed.
- This year's annual planning meeting with PCS is currently being scheduled by Phil Selmes. He announced at the Convenors' meeting on September 7th that the planning meetings will take place later this month and early next month. I requested that our meeting be held in early October to give Warren a chance to attend. I also spoke to Nina Bruns to ask that she attend the meeting also if at all possible.
- Phil also announced at the meeting that First Aid and ChemCert courses are being scheduled. The First Aid courses are to be held on the 23rd and 30th of September and the dates for the ChemCert courses are still being decided.

5. Belconnen High School

A few weeks ago, I was contacted by Trish Vanegas, a teacher at Belconnen High, to ask whether we would be willing to assist again with visits by student groups to the Pinnacle to further their nature studies. I happily agreed, as did Keith, and he and I met two groups of students on September 12th and 13th and accompanied them on a short hike to the top of the Pinnacle. Both groups of students were delightful -- very engaged and curious and surprisingly (for me!) polite and respectful. I'd like to think that we all got something valuable from the experience, and it was nice to be able to point out some of the delights the reserve has to offer, including nesting magpies and a migrating cuckoo that obligingly perched nearby as we were addressing the group.

Trish also asked me whether we might have a small project the students could undertake as part of the celebration of "Belconnen Day" (a new one for me!) on Friday October 20th. There would be about 60 students and Trish estimates that they would have around 45 minutes in the reserve. It occurred to me that they could usefully be employed collecting together the tree guards and stakes in the Central and Dam paddocks, an exercise that is long overdue and would enable us to re-use the guards and stakes for a possible Autumn planting. Trish is presenting this idea to the school as a possible activity and is quite optimistic that they will approve it. On our end, we will need to organise a vehicle and trailer that the students can put the tree guards and stakes into. Once the school has come to a decision, I'll confirm the details with Trish and start organising our part of the exercise.

6. Vegwatch Forum

This event was held on September 5th out at Jerrabomberra Wetlands and was aimed at bringing all the main participating groups and organisations in the Vegwatch project up to speed on where the project is currently at.

Myself and Sarah Hnatiuk from the Friends of Mount Painter were asked to give short presentations talking about our experiences of Vegwatch as it functions in our reserves. Both of us managed to wrestle PowerPoint into successfully providing us with background images for our talks. Mine drew on the historical images we have for the reserve and discussed how the landscape has changed from pre-European times through to the clearing of the land for farming, the establishment of the reserve, the huge tree-planting programs of the 80s and 90s, and finally

our own modest revegetation efforts and the way that the Vegwatch program dovetails into our monitoring of the 2011 Spicers plantings in the northwest corner of Kama paddock.

Other topics presented at the Forum included a discussion of using the Collector smartphone app for vegwatch monitoring and a presentation of the ACT Government's new CEMP (Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program) as a tool for grassland monitoring. A workshop on lowland native woodland monitoring is planned for next year.

John Brannan

September 16th, 2016

Attachment C. Treasurer's Report**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the period 01-Jul-2017 to 18-Sep-2017**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2017		\$2,101.11
Receipts		
Membership and donations	250	
	<u>250.00</u>	
Payments		
nil	<u>0.00</u>	
Surplus of receipts over payments		<u>250.00</u>
Closing balance on 30-Jun-2016		<u>2351.11</u>
Reconciled to:		
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$2149.86	
Petty Cash	\$201.25	
		<u>2,351.11</u>
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00	
Total		<u>2,351.11</u>

Notes:

1. Funds to the value of \$241-78 (at 30 June 2016) 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).

Margo Hellyer
Treasurer
18 Sep 2017