



fotpin update #24 September 2018

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Not a great deal has happened in the time since the AGM and my return from Japan, but a couple of noteworthy things have cropped up.

Annual Planning Meeting with ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) Rangers

This the meeting we hold each year with the local rangers to discuss what our mutual plans are for the Reserve. The meeting was attended by myself and Warren, the Northside Area Ranger Simon Stratford and the ParkCare Ranger Marty Bajt. Our local ranger Michelle Nairn couldn't attend as she's off in Europe for a month. We had hoped to have the Offsets Ranger present at the meeting, but yet again that couldn't happen. I'm still optimistic that we can have a meeting with the Offsets Ranger at some point. Topics discussed at the meeting included the following:

- **Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP)**
This has yet to be released and it is not known whether there are any areas of The Pinnacle Nature Reserve scheduled for burning this season.
- **Pest Management Plans**
Kangaroos: As we know, there was no kangaroo cull this year. It is not yet known whether there will be a cull in 2019.
Rabbits: Spotlight counts continue to show very low numbers. It is expected that the cost effective fumigation will continue. Fotpin continues to provide active burrow locations and numbers to the PCS database via Warren.
- **Weed Management Plan**
It is expected that fotpin will carry out the majority of weed control on the Reserve as in the past. A contract has been let for spraying of African Lovegrass in the Extension and along the Boundary Track in the near future.
We were advised to keep a strong watch on Serrated Tussock which can thrive in these dry conditions.
- **Offsets Ranger**
Nina Bruns has been replaced by Nathan Kay as the Offsets Ranger in charge of the Pinnacle Extension (and a number of other offsets).
- **Signage**
Our hopes of getting some interpretive signs installed at the Reserve are on hold until PCS completes its Landscape Classification assessments. Jasmine Foxlee, who is carrying out the assessments, visited the Reserve in early August and Warren and I accompanied her as she visited various parts of the reserve and ran her set of criteria over the different areas. We didn't get finished that day, but Jasmine was to come back the next day and finish the assessment. Once Jasmine has completed the assessment process, we will be in a position to discuss the appropriate signage with PCS.
- **Noticeboard**
It was noted that the noticeboard, the exterior of which has been very nicely cleaned up by ParkCare Ranger Marty, needs to be internally refurbished also. PCS agreed to supply new corflute backing for the noticeboard as soon as the key can be located.
- **Pipeline and Sheep straying from Tully's**
Management issues attending both these topics were discussed.

- ParkCare Ranger's position
As a result of the vagaries of the public service staffing process, the ParkCare Ranger's position cannot be filled permanently because it is "owned" by a permanent staff member posted to another acting position. However the position will shortly be advertised for a 6 month term, to replace the current temporary arrangement. Marty Bajt is expected to apply.

ParkCare Coordinators' Meeting

This quarter's meeting was held on August 30th and the topics covered included the following:

- PCS budget update
The recent ACT Govt. budget allocated \$3 million to PCS over 4 years. PCS gets \$300,000 the first year and then \$900,000 each year after that. Detailed documents with the specific funding numbers will be distributed later.
- The Secret Life of Rangers
Northside Area Ranger Simon Stratford gave a very illuminating presentation about how the work that PCS rangers do is organised. His outline made it clear that Rangers are expected to undertake a wide range of tasks, including wildlife control (mostly dealing with animals injured in traffic accidents), controlled burns, fire management and admin work, which leaves them only one day in every fourteen to actually get out onto the reserves and help with on-ground work. He also noted that in August this year, rangers had to euthanise over 700 kangaroos hit by cars, up from around 300 at the same time last year. This highlights the extra workload rangers are currently carrying due to the prolonged dry conditions.
- Tubestock planting techniques
Sarah Hnatiuk from Friends of Mt Painter prepared a handout summarising the lessons FOMP has learned from several years of large-scale plantings on Mt Painter.

Themeda Rescue

Following an initial foray in early August, Len Taylor has since led several trips into the Reserve to dig out and relocate native Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*) tussocks from the proposed pipeline corridor to areas in the Forest block and Weetangera paddock where we are trialling native groundcover restoration. Len has a few plots marked out in Weetangera paddock where he has been working for the past year or so to eliminate introduced grasses to give the native groundcover species a better chance of re-establishing.

The Themeda tussocks will replace existing patches of introduced grasses and will hopefully serve as stepping stones to a broader recovery of the native grasses in the area. To assist with this, we will be getting a second 1,000-litre water cube from PCS, which will be positioned in a convenient location for keeping water up to the transplanted tussocks



Jamison Centre Joint ParkCare Display

There has been a good response to my call for volunteers to help out with the Pinnacle display at this year's Joint ParkCare display at Jamo this weekend. The display involves 7 groups this year, and the roster is now looking pretty good. My thanks to everyone who has put their hand up to help out.

Fotpin Facebook page

If you haven't already checked out our new Facebook page, go and take a look now:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthepinnacle/>

Feel free to post your own photos, videos or comments. The beauty of social media is that it's, well, social!

John Brannan
Coordinator
September 5th, 2018