

Fotpin Coordinating Committee Minutes

Monday 16 June 2014, 7.30 pm

Present: John Brannan, Denise Hall, Pax, Elizabeth Smith.

1) **Apologies:** Warren Bond, Mark Hallam, Keith Thomas.

2) **Minutes** of the last CC meeting 17 March 2014

Accepted with Warren Bond's amendments, previously circulated.

Moved John Brannan, seconded Pax.

3) **Actions arising from previous meetings**

Actions are mostly completed, some in train. See [Attachment A](#) for details.

4) **Correspondence** – (Elizabeth)

Correspondence received by email has been previously circulated to members. **Noted.**

5) **Convenor's Report** (John)

The Convenor's report as circulated to the committee was received and accepted. Some issues are referred to in other agenda items. Details can be seen on the latest update at www.fotpin.org.au/newsletters.html. In a very busy period, key points were:

- A very successful fotpin stall at the Hawker Primary School fete on April 6; many thanks to all the volunteers who helped.
- Autumn walks were very well attended (for further information see the next fotpin Newsletter online). A bird walk (John Brannan 6 April), a walk on the indigenous history and landscape of the Pinnacle and environs (Wally and Tyrone Bell, 27 April), and a detailed view of the post-Settlement history of the Pinnacle (Craig Wainwright, 4 May).
- The Briar Rose Replacement Program – extensive planting in the Bottom Pinnacle saw about 250 shrubs and groundcovers added to the Bottom Pinnacle on a rather bleak day in early May. Further details will appear in a later newsletter online.
- The Kangaroo count on 1 June (an average count of 772), despite unpleasant weather was, 'a great demonstration of community and ACT government staff working together in land management' (PCS Comment). Again, there was an excellent turnout of volunteers. Thanks everyone.
- Extensive and committed weeding, (369 hours of effort) during this quarter, has shown great results. While there is unlikely to be an end to weed control, it is good to know we are making a real difference.
- The next fotpin AGM will be at 2.30 pm on Sunday 20 July at Weetangera Primary School. Don Driscoll will talk about his Grassland Restoration Experiment and there will be an excellent afternoon tea as well as some displays of what fotpin does. Keep an eye out for the notice of meeting for further information.

6) **Coordinator's Report** (Pax)

The Convenor's report (above) outlined the range of fotpin activities since the last Committee meeting. The Coordinator added that 41 volunteers assisted with the Kangaroo Survey on 1 June, with eight volunteers leading both surveys. A special thanks to Carolynne, Penny, Don, Warren, Allan, Justin and Jim. The survey was well attended in both the morning and afternoon, with good count accuracy.

7) **Treasurer's Report** (Warren, See [Attachment B](#), circulated 8 June 2014)

a) The Treasurer's report was accepted

It was also noted that Ginninderra Catchment Group has funds held for fotpin, including for The Native Grass Regeneration Project, and for future plantings.

b) *Approval for reimbursements of expenses*

Request for reimbursement by Elizabeth for basic equipment for the Hawker Public School Fete Stall which can be used for later similar events. (Receipts circulated.)

Approved: Moved John, seconded Pax

8) **Membership report** (Warren, report circulated 8 June 2014)

Our current membership stands at 69 (a net increase of 2 since the March meeting). We farewell Malcom Fyfe (a foundation member) and Andrew Yates, with thanks for their contributions. We welcome Wayne Hoy, Peter Krbavac, Graham O'Connor and Alana Wilkes.

The number of other people on our email lists increased by 17 to 89.

9) **Weed Management** (Warren, report circulated 8 June 2014)

The last 3 months (March to May) have been our second busiest on record for these months (369 hours), including the busiest May ever. Paterson's curse, Saffron thistles and miscellaneous broadleaf weeds (mostly flatweed and fleabane) absorbed most of our time (a total of 55%). Other main weeds dealt with during this time included Verbascum, St. John's Wort and African lovegrass.

For a full report, see www.fotpin.org.au/weeds/weed_effort.html.

A meeting of weeders was held on 10th April to discuss progress on weed control over the past 4 seasons and to review strategies for dealing with recalcitrant weed types such as Saffron thistles. Overall, it was noted that many of our target weed types are declining indicating successful control.

10) **Native Grass Regeneration Project** (Don Driscoll, report circulated 5 June 2014)

Don reported that ACT Parks was unable to burn the experimental plots this year, which has delayed other treatments.

It seems at this stage that none of the treatments are a panacea for restoration. Further complex analyses are under way. More detailed results will be presented at the AGM on 20 July for consideration and discussion. Kat Ng has written up two short papers from her autumn surveys; these are being revised. Richard Southerton will submit his ANU research project in June.

11) **Biodiversity Offsets**

Report on meeting with TAMS and ESDD

Craig Wainwright (PCS) attended with Elizabeth, Warren and John (fotpin), and Sarah Hnatiuk from Friends of Mount Painter, a meeting with officers from Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) and the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD).

The meeting was informative and surprisingly frank. Those attending noted that this issue is highly charged and complex. The ACT does not yet have final guidelines or legislation, which are under way, but is basing its activities on the NSW approach, with consideration of other states' legislation.

Money will be available to fund plantings in offset areas such as (possibly) the Bottom Pinnacle, to improve their biodiversity.

Craig Wainwright pointed out that work done by Landcare groups in any prospective 'offset area' will not cause another area to be developed. Rather that development will go ahead, whether or not land carers improve the biodiversity of other locations.

12) Revegetation Strategy (John)

a) *Recycling plant guards etc*

In early May, plant guards and stakes were removed from the planting site below the Forest Block, by 5 members. These were used the next day at the Briar Replacement Program.

b) *Planting*

The Briar Replace Program at the Bottom Pinnacle, proved more demanding than expected, in bleak weather. A consistent and persistent effort by a lot of fotpin volunteers completed the plantings over the day. For further details, see the Convenor's Report above (Item 5). Many thanks to all who took part.

13) Fire management

Noted that Parks and Conservation Service (PCS)/Fire Management Unit (FMU) are discussing the possibility of burns in Spring at the Pinnacle as Autumn has been wet, although only Autumn burns have been approved. fotpin needs to keep in contact with FMU about burns strategy.

ACTION:. John to follow up initially with Craig Wainwright about TAMS etc consistency on decisions re burns in reserves, especially the Pinnacle.

14) Soil and Water Erosion (includes Assessment Program and works) (Pax)

Nil Report.

15) Rabbit control (Pax)

It was noted that fotpin members continue to record and report warrens to Warren and hence to PCS as they are discovered..

16) Kangaroos (Pax)

- a) Kangaroo Forum 9 April 2014 – Warren attended, nothing tangible to report, but good background information. Noted.
- b) Kangaroo count 1 June 2014. This went very well with an excellent volunteer response and accuracy. (See also Convenor's Report above.)

17) Focal Point (Keith Thomas)

Report on progress with engagement with stakeholders (*circulated 11/06/14*). Key points noted below.

- a) Keith reported on progress on Focal point actions. A significant number of potential stakeholders for the potential Focal Point has been identified. These are yet to be discussed with Pax and Elizabeth.
- b) An approach, or approaches is/are being developed, to address specific groups and their needs or issues.
- c) Dialogues need to be developed for different interest groupings and with sources of information.
- d) A well thought out approach is needed to determine the needs for a Focal Point and will take some time. The following timeline is suggested.

Month	Activity
July/August	Develop a plan of approach, target groups, and stakeholder requirements questionnaire (KT/ES/Pax)
August/September	Establish contact with chosen target groups and arrange a time to meet
September/October	Meet with target groups, discuss project and get questionnaires completed
November/February	Analyse data and prepare a report for the CC in early 2105.

18) Information, and outreach (John)

a) *Newsletter, flyers, brochure*

i) Newsletter. (Elizabeth to report) *Idea/concept emailed 12/06/14.*

Elizabeth is working on the next Newsletter, focussing on the Autumn walks. The next issue is expected to focus on plantings, including the background work that is needed.

ii) Distribution of autumn walks notices and general brochures in local area. (John and Elizabeth to report) *Circulated 09/06/14.*

(1) Walks notices were put up at the Pinnacle (John) and in various shopping centres in the local area (Elizabeth).

(2) Elizabeth has placed Pinnacle brochures in local shopping centres, the Belconnen Library and Belconnen Community Centre.

b) *Letterbox drop*

Nil., but targeted drops to be reconsidered eg, for future walks at the Pinnacle.

c) *Guided Walks Autumn.*

See Convenor's report, Item 5 above

d) *School fetes, shopping centre displays*

Hawker Primary School 6 April –. This was successful, creating interest in the Pinnacle and in the environment. Refer to convenor's report, above (Item 5).

e) *Noticeboard*

Noted that Pax has the key.

ACTION: Elizabeth and Denise to follow up.

19) Website update (Warren) *Refer email 08/06/14*

Warren reported that major website initiatives in the last 3 months included: the migration of our site from the hussat.com.au server to our own server, the introduction of a new secondary menu for the collection of weed-related web pages, and the mending of several hundred broken links on the "birds of the Pinnacle" page as a result of changes to the COG website.

The number of unique visitors to the website in each 3 month period continues to increase, albeit slowly. "Recent weeding" was by far the most sought after page on our site in the last 3 months. "About the Pinnacle" and the maps and tracks pages continue to rank well. Kangaroo related pages received an above average number of visitors in this period leading up to the cull and after the count on 1 June, as might be expected.

20) Events (current/future)

Conservation Council Symposium: Being an Effective Voice for the Environment Sat 29 March 2014 – Nil Report

21) Other Business

Seats/Benches around the Pinnacle see following note from Malcolm Fyfe

Malcom Fyfe, a foundation fotpin member has suggested the installation of sitting benches around The Pinnacle for the less able members of the community: ie suitably inconspicuous, environmentally well designed seats.

ACTION: John to contact Jasmine and Nina at PCS re policy on such benches in the Canberra Nature Park.

22) Future meetings

a) Short CC meeting before AGM

i) Timing.

CC to meet at about 2pm .

ii) Agenda and issues for discussion

Finalise the books and any outstanding issues before handover to new Committee

b) Annual General Meeting

i) AGM Scheduled for 20 July at Weetangera Primary School, Sunday 20 July at 2.30 pm

ii) AGM agenda

(1) Speaker (Don Driscoll, laptop and datashow in train, Elizabeth, Pax and Don)

(2) Reallocation of office-holders' responsibilities after 2 years in position.

(3) Retiring Committee Members

(4) New Committee Members

(5) Refreshments etc

23) Proposed date for next CC meeting:

After the AGM, the dates for CC will be set by the new committee – about September for first meeting in 2014-15.

Noted and agreed.

Actions arising from the Coordinating Committee meeting of **Monday 17 March 2014**

6. **Convenor's Report** (John)
ACTION: Warren to convert John's report to a fotpin Update for the website. **Done**
- 8) **Treasurer's Report**
b) **ACTION:** Pax stated that he and Susan would provide refreshments for Kanga Counts. **Done**
- 10) **Weed Management** (Warren)
ACTION: Coordinator (Pax) to arrange meeting with weeders to discuss the context and broader weeding strategy. **Done.**
- 11) **Native Grass Regeneration Project** (Don Driscoll)
ACTIONS:
a) John to contact Don asking him to speak at the AGM about the Native Grass Regeneration Project. **Done**
b) John also to ask Don to follow up marking his project areas. **Done**
- 12) **Revegetation Strategy** (John)
a) *Plantings:* **ACTION:** John to confirm timing with Karissa. **Done**
- 13) **Nature Conservation Bill and Biodiversity Offsets**
b) *Biodiversity Offsets*
ACTION: John to arrange a meeting with PCS as suggested by them. Wed 2 April, morning, to be confirmed. **Done**
- 14) **Fire management**
FMU Briefing 27 February 2014
ACTION: Pax to record footprint of burns (with help from fotpins) and review following the burns, starting from 2 weeks after the burns and ongoing. **In train, no burns this autumn.**
- 15) **Soil and Water Erosion** (Pax)
ACTION: Maintenance is needed on some of the coir logs on the Bottom Pinnacle. Pax to coordinate. **In train.**
ACTION: John to talk to Ranger Anthony about the opportunity for fotpin members to assist with this. **Done.**
- 17) **Kangaroos** (Pax)
a) Kangaroo forum 9 April 2014
ACTION: Warren plans to attend. **Done.**
b) Kangaroo count, date to be confirmed, but possibly 1 June.
ACTION: Pax to follow up and coordinate. **Done.**
- 18) **Focal Point** (Keith)
Actions: Keith
 - Develop a list of potential stakeholders. **Done.**
 - Discuss these with Elizabeth and Pax. **In train.**
 - Develop a suitable approach to each stakeholder. **In train.**
 - Complete a stakeholder matrix and analysis. **In train.**
- 20) **Information, and outreach** (John)
a) *Newsletter, flyers, brochure*
Newsletter. Elizabeth was to invite members by email to contribute ideas re rejuvenated newsletter. Agreed.
ACTION Elizabeth to arrange email to members. **Done**
b) *Guided Walks Autumn*

- ii) April date TBC Wally and Tyrone Bell happy to lead an aboriginal focussed walk (email 11/2/14). **Done**
- iii) Late April, date TBC, after Aboriginal walk, Craig Wainwright. **Done**
- d) *School fetes*, shopping centre displays
Hawker Primary School 6 April
ACTION: John to discuss with chair of PCA (Gillian Treloar), if possible to set up on Saturday before the fete, and availability of display boards. **Done**
ACTION: Elizabeth to arrange display boards from PCS if not available from Hawker PS and to set up on Saturday. Any assistance welcome. **Done.**
ACTION: Elizabeth to investigate a possible 'Guess the No. of gumnuts' competition and related quiz and prizes. **Done**

23) Proposed date for next CC meetings:

ACTION: Later dates to be decided by incoming committee after AGM. (**Next committee**)

ACTION: Committee members to consider future changes of committee positions in view of 2 year maximum time frame for position-holders. **Done.**

Suggested date for fotpin AGM is 20 July 2014.

ACTION: John and Elizabeth to draft agenda with committee. **Done**

ACTION: PAX to discuss availability of Weetangera School venue with Principal, **Done and confirmed.** preferably in same discussion as revised fotpin focal point with Keith and Elizabeth (see fotpin focal point item.). **In train**

**Friends of The Pinnacle
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period 01-Jul-2013 to 31-May-2014**

Opening balance on 01-Jul-2013	\$388.21
Receipts	
Membership donations	\$165.00
Sale of Brochures	\$26.00
Grant from Molonglo Catchment Group for Shrub guards	\$594.00
Interest	\$0.09
	<u>\$785.09</u>
Payments	
Replacement of Solo weed wand	\$83.50
Purchase of Shrub guards	\$594.00
	<u>\$677.50</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments	<u>107.59</u>
Closing balance on 31-May-2014	\$495.80
Reconciled to:	
"Beyond Bank" Account 03356841	\$254.70
Petty Cash	\$241.10
	<u>\$495.80</u>
Less unrepresented Cheques	\$0.00
Total	\$495.80

Warren Bond
Treasurer
08 Jun 2014

Payments for Approval at Fotpin Coordinating Committee Meeting 16 Jun 2014

Payment to	Purpose	Amount
Elizabeth Smith	Purchase of brochure holders and marking pens *	\$31-50
Elizabeth Smith	Purchase of storage box for bird nest display *	\$6-70
	Total:	\$38-20

* Receipts attached.