



fotpin update #46 March 2024

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The reserve was looking pretty dry at the start of Summer, but good rain from late November through to December and early January turned the reserve lush and green again. The rain benefited both the native grasses and wildflowers, while also giving the weeds a new lease on life. We're seeing flourishing stands of native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass, native Sorghum and Red-anther Wallaby Grass, and beautiful patches of native daisies.

Interpretative Signage

As mentioned in the last Update, our schedule for installing the signs has been delayed by the need to wait for the official version of the reserve map. In the meantime, we have been chipping away with minor tweaks and improvements and hope to be able to finalise and install them soon. Stay tuned for information on an official launch!

Weed Management

Increasingly worrying are incursions of African Lovegrass deep into the reserve, as well as an extended flush of St. John's Wort that has stretched our ability to cope. The funding we obtained from the ACT Environmental Grants Program has helped to control St. John's Wort in some of the more heavily infested areas that we have not had the resources to tackle. The Grant also included funding for some African Lovegrass control but a scarcity of contractors has unfortunately delayed this past the optimal time for spraying. Nevertheless we hope it will have some impact when it does take place. In the meantime we have been looking at ways to boost our ability to find and control it deeper in the reserve where we would prefer not to have contractors working. Ranger Julian has been dealing with some of these patches in the last few weeks.

The [summary of weeding effort](#) for the 2023-24 season to date is available on the website.

Pinnacle Biodiversity (*Warren Bond*)

In January (fortuitously on Jan 26th) we celebrated the confirmation of the reserve's 1,000th native species (and the 268th native plant species), thanks to Wendy Merritt's keen observation on a Thursday morning weeding group expedition to Kama Link paddock. The species in question is a pea called *Zornia dyctiocarpa* var. *dyctiocarpa*, known to its friends as "Zornia" (see its photo on the next page). While not officially considered uncommon only 45 sightings of it in the ACT area have been recorded on NatureMapr since it launched in 2014, although records of 19 other sightings dating back to 1934 have also been included there.

The rate of new plant species sightings has slowed (only 1 a month over the last year) but the rate of adding new insect species continues apace. It was largely these that got us close enough to the 1,000 mark for plant to sneak in and take the prize. Photos of a few of these are also included at the end of the Update. ([See also the numbers by all species groups.](#))

Upcoming events

There are a few events scheduled for this Autumn, including the Hawker Community Garden Market, the Autumn bird walk led by John Brannan, a possible Wellbeing walk led by Sally Holliday, though this has still to be confirmed. And of course our **AGM** in coming up in early winter on **May 19th** (details to be confirmed towards the end of April).

Details of the two confirmed events follow:

- **Fotpin display stall at Hawker Community Garden Market**

When: 9.30-12.30 am, Saturday March 16th

Where: Hawker shops

- **Pinnacle Autumn Bird Walk**

When: 9.00-11.30 am, Sunday April 28th

Where: Dungowan St, Hawker

John Brannan

Convenor

07 March 2024

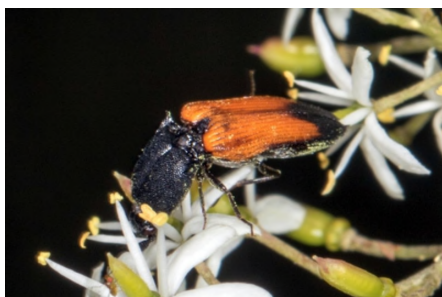
The Pinnacle Nature Reserves 1,000th native species



[Zornia dyctiocarpa var. dyctiocarpa](#)

Photo: Wendy Merritt

Recent insect additions to the Reserve's native species list



[Anilicus xanthomus](#) (a Click beetle)



[Megachile ferox](#) (a Resin bee)



[Lissopimpla excelsa](#)
(an Orchid dupe wasp)

Photos: Alison Milton

[Click on the species name to open the sighting on the NatureMapr website](#)