



## fotpin update #48 August 2024

Spring is in the air

In this update:

**Pinnacle events**

**Molonglo watermain revegetation**

**Interpretive signage**

**Annual PCS briefing**

**Website upgrade**

This winter certainly feels like it's been a chilly one, at least when compared with the last few years. The skiers may be very happy, but I'm definitely ready for some warmer weather. And the signs of spring are already there. My local magpies have nearly finished their nest (they're not the swooping kind, fortunately) and the buds on the wattles are turning yellow and ready to burst open.

This spring is shaping up to be a very busy one for the group, with a very full program of events that includes the annual Joint ParkCare display at the Jamison Centre, Spring Fetes at both the local primary schools, six guided walks, and a planting morning with the Landcare ACT Pride Grows LGBTIQ+ group (details below).

This is all in addition to our usual weekly program of weeding and revegetation mornings with Bob and Len. We are also looking forward to finally getting our new interpretive signs installed in the next few months, which will be the culmination of a project that has now dragged on for over two years since we first received the grant funding from the ACT Government. We're really excited to see our designs finally see the light of day! Meanwhile Warren Bond has been beavering away on updating our website so that pages will be "mobile-friendly" when visitors scan QR codes on the signs.

### **Pinnacle Events**

As mentioned, we have a very full program of events planned for the coming spring.

First cab off the rank is the annual Joint ParkCare Display at the Jamison Centre in Macquarie. This year, the event will be held from Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>. As always, this is a great opportunity for our ParkCare and other environmental groups to raise awareness in the local community of the reserves and the work that the "Friends of" groups do. There's still an opportunity to help out for an hour or two over that weekend if you can. Just go to the [online roster](#) and put your name in whatever slot suits you.

The Hawker and Weetangera Primary schools are also holding their fetes this spring, and they have invited us to set up a display stall as usual. So again, stay tuned for a request for people to help out with setting up and staffing the stall. The fetes will be held on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> (Hawker Primary) and Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup> (Weetangera Primary). Both fetes run from 10 am to 2 pm and are always a fun event to be part of (with lots of home-cooked goodies! 😊).

This year's program of spring walks announced simultaneously with this Update consists of two bird walks guided by me (September 29<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup>), our usual wildflower walk led by John Fitz Gerald and Nola McKeon (October 26<sup>th</sup>), Warren Bond's history of European settlement walk (November 3<sup>rd</sup>) and a *Glorious Grasslands* walk as part of the Landcare ACT Canberra Festival of Nature (November 10<sup>th</sup>), with John Fitz Gerald acting as guide. We will also be hosting a walk as part of the Landcare ACT Women in Nature initiative (date TBA). My thanks to Nola McKeon for agreeing to act as guide for this walk.

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, we're organising a smallish planting event to host the Landcare ACT Pride Grows group. This event is targeted at members of the LGBTIQ+ community in Canberra and is part of an ongoing program of Pride Grows environmental events run by Landcare ACT. That said, the event is open for anyone to attend, though we'll have to cap the numbers so that we don't end up with more people than plants!. We'll be working in the badly degraded compound next to the Icon water tanks, which has already been the target of a couple of

revegetation events, with mixed results. This time, we'll be focusing on planting tree, shrub and groundcover tubestock, and the holes will be pre-dug for us by the PCS Rangers, though some additional spadework will still be needed, I suspect.

Details of the planting event and all walks but the Women in Nature walk can be found on the [What's On](#) page of our website.

### **Molonglo 3 Watermain Pipeline Corridor Revegetation**

John Fitz Gerald has been monitoring the three fenced plots along the pipeline (described in previous Updates) in preparation for seeding in spring. He tells me that they are looking good, so far as anyone can tell this early in the season, and that very little has re-sprouted in the experimental scrape we excavated in one of the plots. In the meantime, PCS has offered the ParkCare groups a number of bags of native grass seed to use for revegetation projects, which comes at the perfect time for our efforts along the pipeline. We are still working out the details, but we will probably also try to purchase some native forb seed that we can use along with the grass seed when the time for planting comes.

I also took the opportunity offered by the Landcare ACT Pride Grows initiative to organise a small planting event (50-70 plants) in the compound beside the Icon water tanks as part of the Spring Events Program, as mentioned above. Following advice we received last year from revegetation ecologist Jarrod Ruch, who advised us to focus on overstorey plantings in the compound due to the lack of topsoil, John Fitz Gerald and I decided to go with tree and shrub seedlings for this planting. I reached out to PCS, and they have agreed to include some tree and shrub seedlings for us in their annual order of plants for revegetation, and ParkCare Ranger Marty has offered the tree guards and stakes we will need to protect the new plants.

### **Interpretive Signage**

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, Anne Aisbett and I met with PCS Volunteer Coordinator Lauren McQueen and EPSDD Visitor Information Manager Claire Conti to go over the latest versions of the maps PCS have drawn up for our signs. At the meeting, we were able to work through the last remaining changes needed and also progress the other aspects of the project through to the point where the remaining issues can be thrashed out between PCS and Screenmakers directly. We also discussed the deadline for acquitting the grant, which is currently the end of September. Claire said she and Screenmakers had agreed for the invoice for payment to be issued before the signs are actually installed if necessary, so this gives us a bit more wriggle room to get the designs finalised. We are all hopeful that the designs will be signed off early in September and they will be ready to print and install!

Once we have a firm installation date for the signs, we are planning an official "unveiling" event, probably at Dungowan St with perhaps a walk up to the summit to look at the Panorama sign and the Forest sign *en route*.

### **Parks and Conservations Service (PCS) Annual Planning Briefing for ParkCare**

Held online on July 30<sup>th</sup>, this was attended by Warren Bond and, to a limited extent, myself. Minutes and copies of the presentations are expected to be circulated by PCS/Parkcare. Once they are available we will post them on our website. Keep an eye on the news headlines there if you're interested.

### **Website Upgrade** (Warren Bond)

As mentioned in John's introduction, I have been working on a major update to our website. I expect to put it online in the first week of September.

It updates the website to the latest coding standards and implements what is called "responsive design" where the appearance of information on a web page responds to the size of the screen to help users easily access and interact with content on any device.

In the process I have produced some improved and new content:

- The flora and fauna pages have been reorganised to make navigation between groups of species easier and to include many more photos (all taken on the Reserve).

- There is a new series of history pages summarising what I have managed to put together about the progression of European settlement and tenure on the land that is now The Pinnacle Nature Reserve

You will be able to access both of these from the dropdown "about the pinnacle" menu once the updates are loaded.

Only the most-used of our over 450 web pages have been updated to the new coding standards. Pages not updated are still interoperable with the new pages through an identical menu. On a large screen you won't notice the difference between those pages still in the old coding and the new ones. If you open an old page on a small screen you will be warned (although it will also be obvious) that the page is not suitable for that device.

Pages not updated include those documenting our 15 years of weeding effort, because of the magnitude of the task to update them and because I have assumed that these are almost always likely to be viewed on large screens. Some older content (mainly kept on the website as a record of past activities) has been moved from the main menu into an "archived" menu but is still accessible, albeit in non-responsive format.

I hope you enjoy these improvements to our web presence and I welcome any comments, particularly if you identify things that aren't working the way you think they should be. Email details of any issues to [webmaster@fotpin.org.au](mailto:webmaster@fotpin.org.au).

---

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at our spring walks and events or just out and about enjoying what is acknowledged by many as one of the best of Canberra's Nature Reserves.

John Brannan  
Convenor

30 August 2024