



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 21st May 2023 2:00 pm

Weetangera Primary School and Zoom

Minutes

Present:

In person:

Members: John Brannan (Convenor), Mike Hall, Anne Aisbett, Alana Wilkes, Denise Hall, Gerard Newman, Wendy Whitham, Bob Hodgson, Barbara Allan, Len Taylor

Non-members: Peter Cain MLA, Rosie Cooney

On-line:

Members: Warren Bond

1. Welcome by the convenor

John acknowledged that we volunteer and are meeting on Ngunawal land, and thanked the Ngunawal for their care for the land over thousands of years past. He thanked Weetangera School for the use of the room, and welcomed Peter Cain MLA and the guest speaker, Rosie Cooney.

2. Apologies: Lesley Harland, John Fitz Gerald, Julie Hotchin, Mark Hallam, Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, Rosemary Blemings, Gilbert Hughes

3. Guest Speaker: Rosie Cooney, EPSDD

Rosie outlined her role in EPSDD in the new Office of Nature Conservation, which is designed to bring policy and research together, and is responsible for driving change in the ACT government's approach to biodiversity conservation. She spoke of how a major challenge facing us is climate change, and noted that projected global average surface temperatures must be multiplied by a factor of 1.4 to provide projections for land temperature changes in Australia. This means that we now face 2.8 to 3 degrees of temperature rise under even very optimistic scenarios. We are already seeing the impacts of this, such as the two major burns of Namadgi within 17 years.

Rosie noted that in the future we will face more extreme changes and challenges, and this will be reflected in the composition of species present in the ACT. Part of the role of the new Office will be to prepare for uncertainty and for rapid responses to large-scale change. We are at an early stage of adaptation planning in the nature conservation space. In other areas, the government is more advanced –the government's Living Infrastructure Plan (led by a different part of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) to plant trees to ameliorate urban heating is one example of such an adaptation strategy.

The Office of Nature Conservation is working with Mike Dunlop in the CSIRO on organisational adaptation. One outcome of this is the development of a Climate Adaptation for Nature Initiative which will use case studies into particular areas; the first area to be looked at is planned burning. Rosie noted that one of the key challenges is to question our conservation objectives, as the species in the ACT will be changing, and ecosystem resilience and animal movements may become more relevant than threatened species lists to our work in conservation. This raises the question of our deeper objectives and values given the changing environment.

In response to a question from John, Rosie noted that there is a 'Connecting Nature, Connecting People' initiative aimed at mapping connectivity corridors within the city, restoring priority sites, and so forth. She noted the tensions associated with this, including the rapidly growing population of Canberra and pressure from developers, which will be addressed by including viable connectivity corridors into strategic planning processes. As part of this, there is a publicly available Ecological Network Dashboard which maps animal needs by taxa based on existing vegetation. There is funding available for community groups to work on restoring these habitats. Len queried whether there will be similar information on seed dispersal; Rosie replied that there was not, this was a big gap but highly complex. John questioned whether fotpin should consider using different plant species for revegetation projects. Rosie replied that there was some modelling on what plants would do best in the future, but not at a fine enough scale to be useful yet. New modelling will be run this year by the NSW and Australian Regional Climate Modelling (NARClIM) initiative of the NSW government.

Rosie remarked that her Office would like to work with ParkCare groups on planning future scenarios. John noted that Parkcare groups would like a strategic planting guide, and Rosie said that this would be developed, especially for trees. ACT Gov is currently running provenance trials on Red Gum species from hotter areas to see if they can succeed in the ACT. Some other ANU work has revealed that the genome for some eucalypt species is the same throughout most of NSW, which indicates that those species should be already well-adapted to climate variation.

In response to a question from John, Rosie reported that Canberra is expected to remain habitable long-term, and that under an old CSIRO projection, Canberra may more resemble Dubbo in the future. Bushfires are likely to be a major challenge into the future, with potential knock-on negative effects on the water supply, population health and the economy.

In response to questions from Gerry and Len on first nations' fire management approaches, Rosie noted that risk management was an issue, and the government is currently exploring approaches working with the Ngunawal community. It may be helpful to look at NSW processes that have simplified low-risk burns approvals.

In response to a question from John regarding communications between Parkcare and the rangers, Rosie replied that while the rangers are PCS and her team is not directly involved here, one thing on her agenda is looking at ways to better support Parkcare and others involved with restoration with decision support and monitoring tools.

Peter Cain questioned whether the new Office has received more resources. Rosie replied not yet, but that they were reviewing the Nature Conservation Strategy over the coming year and this may change resource allocations.

4. Confirmation of [Minutes of the 2022 AGM](#)

Moved Wendy Whitham, seconded Gerard Newman. Agreed unanimously.

5. Convenor's Report ([Attachment A](#))

John presented both a verbal and written report. He noted the huge effort to control weeds has been in part successful, and thanked the weeding teams and Warren for their efforts. He noted that fotpin have been able to hold several events that had been cancelled in previous years due to COVID. John reported that our ranger Kelzang Tshering will be moving into another position, and that we wish him well in this. His place is taken by Julian Lolicato, and we look forward to working with him. John noted that the new Pinnacle brochure is now available.

There was some discussion around the interpretative signs currently under design, including an additional one to be funded by a generous member. John provided draft designs of the signs and asked the membership for feedback and suggestions.

He thanked Warren for setting up and running the Zoom session, and expressed the group's gratitude to Weetangera Primary School for once again allowing us to use their staff room for our AGM.

Peter Cain noted that the drainage ditch on the Springvale Track runs uphill in one section. John replied that he will talk to the rangers about it.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mike Hall presented the [audited financial statement for 2022-2023](#). He noted that he is still in discussions with GCG on the reporting of grant money they hold on behalf of fotpin, as not all grant monies are reported to fotpin and so are not included in the Treasurer's Report.

Anne moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, seconded by Barbara. Agreed.

7. Report on the Conflict-Of-Interest Register

Anne reported that there have been no conflicts-of-interest registered by committee members in 2022-23.

8. Standdown of the Coordinating Committee

Members of the 2022-23 Coordinating Committee stood down in accordance with meeting rules and all positions were declared vacant.

9. Nominations from the floor (by members only)

Rosie Cooney agreed to act as Returns Offer and called for nominations.

10. Election of new Coordinating Committee

The following office bearers and ordinary members were nominated and elected unopposed:

Convenor: John Brannan

Nominated: Mike Hall; Seconded: Len Taylor

Secretary: Anne Aisbett

Nominated: Len Taylor; Seconded: Gerard Newman

Treasurer: Mike Hall

Nominated: Wendy Whitham; Seconded: Denise Hall

Ordinary Members:

Warren Bond

Nominated: Len Taylor; Seconded: John Brannan

Len Taylor

Nominated: John Brannan; Seconded: Gerard Newman

Denise Hall

Nominated: Mike Hall; Seconded: John Brannan

Alana Wilkes

Nominated: John Brannan; Seconded: Anne Aisbett

11. Other Business

None.

Meeting closed: at 3:20 and was followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Anne Aisbett
Fotpin Secretary
22 May 2023