



fotpin update #47 July 2024

The Year in Review

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The past year has been one of steady progress on a number of fronts, with some notable highlights. The year began with a bang in the shape of the inaugural, and highly successful, Environmental Volunteers Conference in August, which afforded an important opportunity for ParkCare and other environmental volunteers to speak directly to government, environmental scientists, and each other.

Spring was particularly busy, with a record number of guided walks in the reserve, including our first ever Tree Walk and Warren's highly informative History Walk. It is my hope that we can continue to expand our program of walks and other community-facing events. Landcare ACT's current "Diversity and Inclusion" program aims to bring more people to Canberra's reserves, specifically through the Women in Nature program, the Youth Roving Group and the Pride Grows (LGBTQIA+ community) Roving Group. We've already hosted a couple of visits by ANU Intrepid Landcare, who are spearheading the Youth Roving Group activities (see below), but I am eager for the Pinnacle to host events that involve the other arms of this program.

We were also kept busy with outreach, holding stalls at the annual Joint ParkCare Display at Jamison, two events hosted by the Hawker Community Gardens and the Hawker Primary School fete.

As well continuing our ongoing program of weed control work, we assisted PCS with two planting events in Kama Link paddock, following on from the ecological improvements begun by the Offsets Management team. In the second of those plantings, we worked with the ANU Intrepid Landcare team of young environmental volunteers. This enthusiastic group of students were a pleasure to work with, and we were fortunate to have them back for a second visit in February to help with some weeding work with Len's team in Weetangera and Eastern paddocks.

Many of you will have noticed the upgrades to the tracks up to The Pinnacle summit. This is long overdue work that PCS budgeted for some time ago, so it is good to see the job finally done. The contractors did a nice job on both the Summit tracks, adding a lot more steps and runoff channels that should see the tracks remain stable well into the future.

Another notable milestone we reached this year was recording our 1,000th native species in the reserve. Warren keeps a careful tally of all native flora and fauna recorded at the reserve, so it is thanks to his diligence that we have numbers to back up what we already know – that The Pinnacle is an amazing place! (See Weeding & Biodiversity below for more.)

Weed Control

While not as challenging as the previous years with all their rain and rampant weed growth, this has still been a difficult year. A long dry spell in Winter and early Spring was followed by heavy rain as Spring moved into Summer, making weeding, and spraying in particular, difficult. In all, our weeding teams spent a total of 869 hours controlling weeds in the reserve between July last year and the end of June this year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the weeding teams for all the hard work they put in, week in, week out. We are one of the hardest working volunteer groups in Canberra in terms of our consistent weeding effort, and our weeding teams deserve the highest praise.

As always, particular thanks are owed to Warren, who has spent more time than anyone out in the reserve spraying weeds, as well as many hours spent coordinating and logging all the effort put in by all our weeders.

A [summary of weeding effort](#) for the 2023-24 season to date will be available on the website in the next few weeks.

Pinnacle Biodiversity

Our total native species count currently stands at 1033 (including 272 native plant species), up from 917 this time last year. This includes 40 species rated as rare or uncommon and 16 very rare or threatened species. The Species Richness Score ([SRS](#)), a measure introduced earlier this year by **NatureMapr**, ranks The Pinnacle Nature Reserve 5th out of all the Canberra Nature Reserves.

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](#)