

ParkCare/Landcare Coordinators Meeting

500 Cotter Road Weston Creek

Tuesday 12th April

4:30pm – 6:15pm

Attendees: Stephen Hughes, , Jenny Conolly, Anne Ions, Bob Hodgson, Michael Sim, Sue Ross, Arminel Ryan, Waltaud Pix, Wendy Rainbird, Andrew Yates, Jim Arnold, Jeannette Ruxton, Rosemary Blemings

Apologies: Richard Larson, Naarilla Hirsch, Lauren Carter, Michael Goonrey

Item One – ACT Tracks and Trails Strategy

It is proposed to have a draft strategy developed by June/July 2011 for the Minister. This strategy only covers dirt trails. The following input was provided by Parkcare/Landcare Coordinators.

- . Designation of walking only tracks (horses/bikes excluded) for each nature reserve.
- . Better reporting procedures for illegal track use and enforcement.
- . Interconnecting of walking trails between nature reserves including interpretive signposting. Vandalism of signs could be an issue.
- . Promotion of walking tracks for tourism. This could be positive but may substantially put pressure on existing tracks and maintenance needs.
- . Increased maintenance of high use tracks .
- . Many tracks and trails have erosion problems due to wet weather and damage possibly caused by bike riders.
- . Clearer signposting of equestrian trails.
- . Grants or capital funding for track maintenance – an example was given of track work undertaken at Farrer Ridge using rollover logs, rock steps which has proven to be able to cope with high use.
- . Informal BMX tracks are causing damage in not only dedicated reserve areas but also in urban open space areas e.g. Mt Rogers. It was suggested that a series of areas could be dedicated to these users for recreational purposes.
- . Educational possibilities for bike riders:
 - DVD or leaflet or even a map of suitable riding areas issued on purchase of bike.
 - Government education campaign e.g. 'Its Cool to be Environmentally Aware'
- . The issue of track construction was raised in regard to the possible excessive use of steps. Some users find steps difficult e.g. Mt Tennant, Nursery Swamp and Mt Taylor.
- . Fences, barbed wire, gate style and squeeze through designs hinders the use of tracks.
- . Develop school partnerships – promote responsible bike riding.
- . Illegal rubbish dumping by accessing tracks and trails.
- .

Maintenance Issues – General

- . More funding required for professional maintenance.
- . All trails have suffered erosion this year
- . Damage reporting process needs to be defined
- . Track work needs to be prioritised depending on safety issues.
- . Maintenance online reporting with feedback options.

Item Two – Scythe Presentation

Bob Hodgson from the Friends of the Pinnacle (FOTPIN) gave a presentation on the use and value of scythes. PCL will only allow the use of this implement to those who are experienced in its use – it will not be available to inexperienced volunteers. All scythe work to be included in monthly activities reports under Other – Scythe use.

It was also suggested at this meeting that Catchment Groups are invited to Coordinator meetings – J. Conolly to include these groups on next meeting invitations and request for agenda items.