

# FoCC Incorporated August 2017 News Update



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## New Parks Victoria project personnel

Parks Victoria have appointed two new personnel to oversee the development of the Woowookarung Regional Park Master Plan.

Lorraine Green has the new role of Regional Project Coordinator and is replacing Karen Doyle. Supporting Lorraine is Jennifer Dickson who is the new engagement officer for the project and is replacing Sue Titcombe.

Over the next weeks Lorraine and Jennifer will be actively working with the stakeholders of the Woowookarung Regional Park on the opportunities and issues of the Park.

## Master Plan submissions sought

Now that the Woowookarung Regional Park has been successfully named on July 19<sup>th</sup>, Parks Victoria has advised the FoCC that an engagement portal will open shortly to assist and collect submissions during September and October. The portal should contain Park information including the Parks guiding principles. Local residents and groups should put their wishes, hopes and concerns for the Park into Parks Victoria

Until the portal opens submissions can be sent to:

[woowookarung@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:woowookarung@parks.vic.gov.au)

## FoCC submission to Parks Victoria

Following the successful FoCC June forum held at the Earth Ed Centre the FoCC committee has been putting together a FoCC submission to the "Master Plan" for the development and management of the Woowookarung Regional Park. The submission is built on the current and anticipated recreational uses and environmental protections needed to maintain a healthy Park into the future. The identification of who uses the Park, where the special features are such as flora, fauna, historical or geological features. These have all been part of the building of the shared FoCC knowledge about the Park.

A check of the FoCC's 2014 "Imagine" brochure, the Environmental, Social, Civic and Economic effects document and the FoCC Forest Policy COB document show the FoCC has been consistent in its wishes for the Park.

The FoCC submission is at: <http://www.focc.asn.au/focc-submissions/>

## Trial tree Planting

The Trial tree Planting at Mt Clear was a great success with the planting of 270 native trees to enhance wildlife links in the new Woowookarung Regional Park at Mt Clear. The trees are the first native trees to be planted in the recently declared and renamed park. Native trees were planted into an area that was previously covered in pine and blue gum plantations. Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FoCC) Thanks to John Petheram and John Gregurke from the Field Naturalist Club of Ballarat for proposing the planting and seeing it through. Thanks also to members of the Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club and FoCC members combining to undertake the tree planting.



The Wildlife link in the Park connects an isolated remnant part of the forest that is known to be visited by Koalas and other native animals. By planting the local native trees into areas that were once prime Koala habitat, prior to planting of pine plantations in the 1960's, a new wildlife connection is being created, as the trees grow and provide food and shelter for native animals into the future.



John Petheram doing his bit.

Image J Petheram.

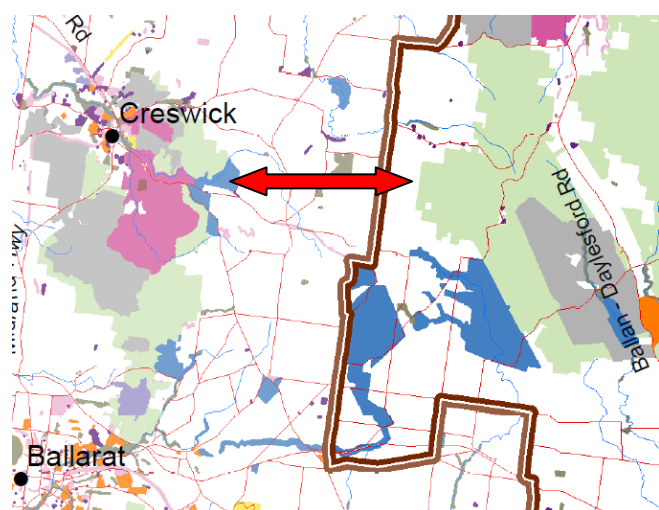
The organisers of the event wish to thank Central Highlands Water for the provision of stakes and tree guards, Leigh Catchment Group for the provision of equipment, the City of Ballarat for a grant to provide safety equipment and Parks Victoria for support.

### **FoCC submission to VEAC**

At the start of 2017 the Victorian Government requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Commission (VEAC) to investigate the uses and future of the several State Forest areas including the Wombat Forest

The FoCC's request to the VEAC investigation "is to consider how the wildlife link from the western side of the Wombat Forest to the eastern side of Crewick Forest may be maintained and improved. And that any recommendations made for the Wombat Forest's future, include a priority for the enhancement of that wildlife link".

Whilst the corridor would be on private land and therefore outside the scope of the VEAC investigation, the FoCC asked that any finding on the Wombat Forest's future include the possibility of the wildlife Corridor connecting to the Wombat Forest to the Creswick Forest.



Map showing location of possible biolink between the Creswick and Wombat forest.

The submission is on the FoCC website  
<http://www.focc.asn.au/focc-submissions/>

or for more information from VEAC:  
<http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/central-west-investigation>

Note the submissions closed on August however the explanation and maps etc are still available on the VEAC website.

### **Parks Victoria Ranger Flora and Fauna drop in sessions**

Parks Victoria Rangers Alex and Paul conducted three drop in sessions at Pax Hill and Earth Ed during late July and early August. Information about flora and fauna was collected from some very helpful local residents and a map of observations has been created. The proceeds of documenting where animals and plants are habiting is

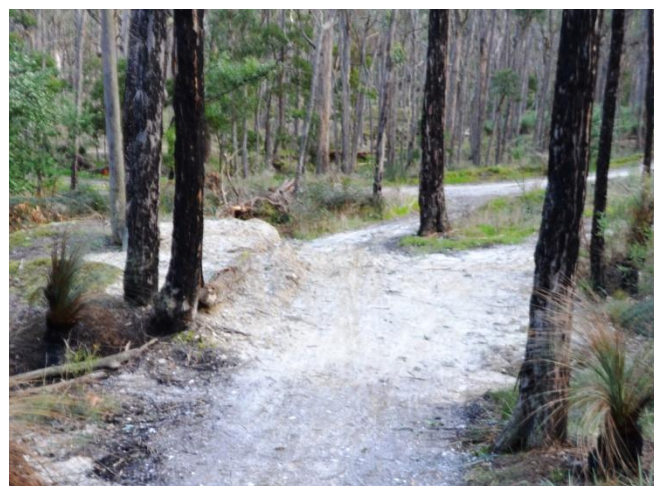
important in building the picture of where flora and fauna exist in the Park. Unfortunately a recent observation was of a Koala that had passed away near the lookout. The reasons for its death are unknown at the moment but appear natural.

### **FoCC Sausage sizzle at Earth Ed Science in Pjamas evening**

The FoCC ran a sausage sizzle for the Earth Ed Science in pjamas evening on August 17<sup>th</sup>. As well as making a profit of \$55 the FoCC were able to talk to many parents about the Park. Great opportunity and thanks to Earth Ed for inviting us.

### **Park Works**

Mine capping of three dangerous mines in the central section of the Park has been completed. One mine has been completely capped whilst the other two have had grates placed over the top so as to maintain a sense of the mining history. The mine off Clayton St was completely capped. Parks engineers deemed it to be unstable to allow for a grate to be installed.



Capped mine off Clayton St Aug 2017. There is some speculation this may have been the site of Chinnerys Mine.



What it looked like in April 2016. Many metres deep and hidden and a real trap for walkers and cyclists.

The mine near the corner of Long St and Spencer St near Pax Hill was grated early in 2016. Parks Victoria now have one capped and three grated mines within the Park.



Grated mine at Billy Cart Hill Aug 2017.



South of Bakers Rd August 2017.

### Skyline Walk

A small group walked from Federation University at Mt Helen through the Park to Wilson St on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>.

Observed along the way were cyclists, walkers, some with dogs and all enjoying the best views of Ballarat due to the very clear and sunny day.

The walk followed a series of existing tracks which could become part of a walking track from the Amphitheatre off Baileys Rd through the forest northwards to the Lookout on Bakers Rd.



Colin and Jeff at the Lookout.

Image B Hartmann

### FoCC facebook

Michaela Settle is overseeing the FoCC Facebook page. See <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/> Feel free to add and comment.

Or email Michaela at [michaelasettle@gmail.com](mailto:michaelasettle@gmail.com) with images comments etc.

**FoCC Membership.** The Friends are offering membership to all Friends of the Canadian Corridor for 2017. Membership is one way to make sure the Friends are viable and strong to keep the Park and corridor in good order.

- Membership is offered to individuals who wish to become a formal Friend of the Canadian Corridor at only at \$20 per calendar year. Groups may be represented by one or more individual Friends.
- For those who simply wish to remain on the information sharing email and update list as a friend need to take no action.
- More info by emailing [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

### **Draft 2017 Calendar**

- September 20<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting
- October 18 FoCC Annual meeting
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> Wildflower walkwith FNCB
- November 15<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting
- December 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas in the Forest

The FoCC update is published on behalf of the Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated, Registered No A0097535B. The update is generally published monthly. Friends wishing to add articles to the FoCC update may do so by emailing [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

Feel free to circulate widely including doctors waiting rooms, work offices, friends and neighbours.

Any opinions expressed in the publication are those of the editor and do not officially represent Parks Victoria or the FoCC.

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