

FoCC Incorporated May 2017 Update

Update Features

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Forum From Plantation to Canadian (Woowookarung) Regional Park – What’s next?

When: 7pm on Wednesday, June 21st 2017

Where: Earth Ed, Olympic Avenue, Mt Clear

Topic: From Plantation to Canadian (Woowookarung) Regional Park – What’s next?

Presentations:

- FoCC – The story so far!
- Parks Victoria and “Site Office” park planners - Developing a Park Management Plan

Please join us for an informative evening as Park Planners explain the plans for the Park and seek community input and feedback about the future opportunities in the Canadian (Woowookarung) Regional Park.

Come along, ask questions, provide ideas and share experiences with local recreational and community users as Park Planners and the Friends consider the exciting possibilities for our Park, right on the eastern doorstep of Ballarat. This forum is open to the public and friends

The Forum is held as apr tof Phase 2 of the Canadian Regional Park Project timeline as shown below:

1. Nov 2016 – Mar 2017	Understanding the Park, values, knowledge and uniqueness. Asking locals about what they know about the features and attributes of the park
2. April – June 2017	Collecting the communities ideas through workshops, forums and site visits
3. July 2017	Sharing the concept. Presentation of concept map and feedback sought
4. Sept – Oct 2017	Consultation on draft plan with the Ballarat community and key user groups
5. Jan 2018	Release of final Park Plan providing a clear strategic direction for next 10 to 15 years

“Site Office” are landscape architects contracted by Parks Victoria to produce the Park Management Plan.

For more information on Site Office’s many projects – go to <http://www.siteoffice.com.au/>

North end discovery walk around the rifle range and tree ferns

Earth works of the old Cremorne Rifle range were rediscovered by the Friends of Canadian Corridor on Mothers Day discovery walk held on May 14th.

The well preserved remains of the short and long rifle range are located in the north end of the Woowookarung Regional Park between Wilson St and York St.



Friends inspecting the berms of the short rifle range

The Cremorne Rifle Club commenced operations on Friday 25th March 1904, according to the Star Newspaper, just three years after the new Commonwealth of Australia established the larger Ballarat Rifle Club range in Canadian. There was an attempt by the Commonwealth to close the Cremorne Range in 1911 in favor of the Canadian Rifle Range. The Cremorne Range continued to be active until 1937 when the last newspaper report of scores was made. There are reports from friends who lived in the post war era around both ranges who remember scavenging old bullets for the lead, to be melted down and sold for scrap.

Thirty one Friends of the Canadian Corridor made the discovery walk through the now forested rifle range and imagined the shooting scene that would have been there 80 years ago. Along the way alluvial mining and deeper exploratory mine shaft remains were found. The discovery walk the visited the Tree Ferns located in the head of Warrenheip Gully on the east side of Boundary Rd.



Soft tree fern, Dicksonia in upper Warrenheip Gully



Walk details - courtesy of J Petheran

Horse Puddler Damage

The April update featured damage to the Mt Clear Horse Puddler, which is located in Lavery Avenue Mt Clear. The damage was reported to the City of Ballarat by the FoCC and the COB have now forwarded it to Heritage Victoria for investigation. Heritage Victoria have jurisdiction over damage to heritage sites. We await the results.

For more information on the horse puddler go to:

<http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/183760>

Hermitage Avenue, Mt Clear– 200 trees saved

Local residents in Hermitage Avenue Mt Clear succeeded in convincing the City of Ballarat Councillors not to approve a subdivision that would have seen nearly 200 native trees removed. Congratulations to the residents for their stand.

300 Flora species in the Park

John Gegurke from the Fields Naturalists Club of Ballarat has been keeping a very up to date and precise list of species in the Park. On the North Walk discovery walk John found another introduced species and thus the 300th species was achieved. List can be downloaded from:

<http://www.focc.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/plant-list-pdf.pdf>

Southern Water Skink in Canadian Regional Park

In April 2017, 2 adult and 2 juveniles were found under a board in Canadian Regional Park. The adults were about 20cm long. Females give birth to litters of up to 8 young. The skinks feed on invertebrates, small frogs and other skinks. This find was featured in the Courier newspaper recently.



Southern water skink - Courtesy of J Gregurke

Fire Fuel reduction burns

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), together with CFA and other emergency services, carry out a fuel management program in Victoria's parks and forests to reduce the bushfire risk to communities, property and the environment.

Early in May the block between Clay Rd and Clayton St was targetted. The FFM appear to be using a two step process where only the grass trees were targetted this year with plans for a colder less intense burn next year. Previous burns have sometimes lead to very hot burns which may damage the left over vegetation.



Burnt twin australian grass tree - off Boundary Rd

Draft 2017 Calendar

- June 21st Forum: From Plantation to Canadian (Woookarung) Regional Park – What's next?
- July 19th Committee meeting
- August 13th - Trial tree planting
- August 16th Park Master Plan Presentation TBC
- September 20th Committee meeting
- October Wildflower walk
- October 18 Annual meeting
- November 15th Committee meeting
- December 20th Christmas in the Forest

First Aid Training

Parks Victoria offers first aid training to groups that undertake activities such as tree planting, walks and other activities in Parks. There is a training day at Bacchus Marsh on July 13th. Any friends who are interested in gaining a First aid training please contact secretary Jeff.

Formal naming of Park

The formal naming of the Park was originally scheduled for April. Hopefully this will occur over the Parliamentary winter recess when the Minister should be able to finally perform the formal naming of the Park. The name Woookarung has been gazetted thus settling the name issue.

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.
- Member ship forms may be obtained from www.focc.asn.au or email to focinfo@gmail.com



Messmate or stringybark leaves, – Eucalyptus obliqua

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
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. Unsubscribe by emailing the editor focinfo@gmail.com

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