

A short story of the Canadian Corridor

The Flora and Fauna

“Messmate Stringybark-Peppermint type forest dominates the vegetation. Interesting understorey flora include nine acacia species, attractive stands of Cherry Ballarat and various cassinas, parrot peas, milkwort and daisies. The herb layer includes a variety of orchid species, chocolate lilies, bluebells and violets whilst grass trees are common throughout the Forest”

“Surveys have recorded the Grass skink, Blue tongue lizard and Mouse Dunnart. The Koala is occasionally seen and the Swamp Wallaby may venture into the forest from adjacent bushland. Considering the central location, bird life is unexpectedly plentiful due mainly to the nearby Yarrowee River Vegetation. Various honeyeaters, thornbills, White-throated Treecreeper, Scarlet Robin, White-winged Chough and Grey Fantail are often seen.”

Ref (1)

The Wadawurrung

The Wadawurrung have lived in the area for thousands of generations, there are many areas of cultural and archaeological significance to Wadawurrung People within the region, indicating a significant level of activity of the Wadawurrung People.

At the time of colonisation, three of the twenty five Wadawurrung clans lived in the vicinity of the Eureka diggings and the Canadian Forest: the Burrumbeet balug at Lakes Burrumbeet and Learmonth, Keyeet balug, a sub-group of the Burrumbeet balug, at Mt Buninyong, and the Tooloora balug, at Mt Warrenheip and Lal Lal Creek.

At present, the descendants of the last known Apical Ancestor of Wadawurrung People are represented by the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung), who were formally recognised by the State Government as the Traditional Owners of Wadawurrung Country in May 2009, under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Aboriginal walking tracks leading from Warrenheip, Buninyong, Black Hill (at Gordon) and lakes at Learmonth and Burrumbeet would have crossed the Canadian Forest.

The Wadawurrung continue to practice their culture, care for their heritage and continuing connection to Country. The forests, lakes, rivers, creeks and mountains are important features and resources for Wadawurrung People.

Ref (2)

The Mining

Mining History of Woowookarung Regional Park

Mining – Basalt

A basalt quarry was established in the creek adjacent to the intersection of Boundary Rd and Bell Ave in 1865 by the Shire of Buninyong. The site of the quarry was at the edge of an ancient basalt flow from Greenhill and is within the Park. A Cottage was built of basalt nearby in the village of Greenhill as a residence for the Quarry Manager. This is immediately adjacent to the Park. Road formations in and out of the site are evident. The former quarry site is now the site of the “Cascades” waterfall. It is unknown how much basalt was produced.

Mining –Gold

Prospecting and gold mining was conducted within Woowwokerang and included alluvial mining, sluicing and hardrock quartz mining. There were no significant mines within the Park, all were private and as such gold production figures are unknown.

Alluvial

Alluvial mining, where gold shed from quartz reefs was mixed with alluvial wash, would have been concentrated along existing and extinct watercourses. Prospecting would have been by washing dirt in a gold pan to recover gold. Any prospective patch of dirt could then have been developed using cradles or if the material was clayey it would be transported to a puddler and puddled, this process dissolved and washed away the clay leaving alluvial wash which could then be treated using a gold pan to recover the gold. Evidence of alluvial mining is difficult to find as creeks and watercourses usually erode and remove any trace of mining over a long period of time. The remains of at least one puddling machine is known to exist outside the park on private land, this site is listed on the Victorian Historic Register. Forestry operations would also have resulted in the destruction of any alluvial operations in this area.

Sluicing

Hydraulic Sluicing was also carried out with the Park where water was used to dissolve, wash down and break up dirt containing gold. Leads of wash dirt in extinct creeks or streams and even existing creeks were treated this way. The resulting muddy flow is then passed through sluice boxes containing riffles which catch the gold which is collected at regular intervals. The resulting sludge then accumulates at a low point below the workings. Water for the hydraulic sluicing was collected in Dams built for the purpose. Water races were both to conduct water into dams and from dams to hydraulic sluicing claims. There are numerous water races within the park and a number of old extinct dams. It is not known whether the water was used at high or low pressure. While forestry operations would undoubtedly obliterated some sites associated with sluicing other areas within the park show strong evidence of this activity and many features such as sluice gullies, extinct dams and water races remain in areas not subjected to forestry operations.

Hard Rock or Quartz Mining.

Most primary gold mineralisation in Victoria is associated with quartz which occurs in reefs. There are innumerable quartz reefs within the Park the majority of which are not mineralised and do not contain gold.

Prospecting for gold would have been accomplished by walking across the country looking for prospective reefs or ground. Any prospective material would be placed in a dollypot (like a mortar and pestle) and crushed and ground to a powder. This material would then be transferred to a gold pan where it was panned off and inspected for traces of gold.

If an area contained gold it could be developed initially by trenching or costeaning. If the reef dipped down it could be followed by shaft sinking or an adit (tunnel) could be driven.

If the prospect was poor or small, treatment and recovery of gold by crushing and concentrating by hand might be continued. If the prospect looked good the material would have been transported to a battery for treatment and gold recovery.

The remains of many small prospects including shafts, adits and small open pits exist within the park. Many more would have existed in the forestry operations area but have since been obliterated by bulldozing. While there are not a lot of mullock dumps (waste non gold bearing rock) associated with shafts the few that exist are threatened by motor cycle owners who treat them as jumps thereby eroding them.

Deep Lead Mining

While there is no evidence of deep lead mining (gold bearing rivers buried by basalt flows) within the park there is evidence in the form of shafts thought to be sunk prospecting for them along the upper reaches of Canadian Creek.

Clay

It is thought that some areas within the park were explored for clay for brick making. As far as can be determined none was found or removed.

Ref (3)

The Timeline

The land before European settlement

Pre 1836	The Wadawurrung have lived in the area for thousands of generations – Ref (4).
1836	Major Mitchell passed to the north of Ballarat viewing Warrenheip and Buninyong to the South. Ref (5)

1838 to 1851

1838 - 1841	First squatters arrive in 1838 and Buninyong town founded 1841 Ref (6)
1851	Gold Discovered at Poverty Point Ref (7)

1851 – 1869

1853 31 st January	“The Canadian” nugget 1619 ozs and third largest ever unearthed in the Canadian Gully. Ref (8)
1854 – December 3 rd	Eureka Rebellion and Stockade – Ref (9)
1855	Establishment of “Trial Saw Mill” and tramway on the Northern side of Mt Buninyong. The tramway ran from Mt Buninyong North west then along Green Hill Rd to near Geelong Rd. Planks from the Saw Mill were used to construct a plank road along Geelong Rd from Mt Helen to the vicinity of the Prince Regent. Ref (10)
1857 May 5 th	Ballarat East proclaimed a municipality. Ref (11)
1859	Borough of Buninyong proclaimed Ref (12)
1860	Ballarat Rifle Range established Ref (13)
1863 June 17 th	Cremorne hotel in Eureka St licenced Ref (14)
1864	Shire of Buninyong – Take up of Quarry reserve at Green Hill Ref (15)
1865	Large forest reserve already made in the vicinity of Ballarat Ref (16)
1865	Construction of Quarry Masters house Ref (17)

1869 on

1871	Bungaree District Roads Board became Shire of Bungaree. Ref (18)
1872	Green Hill State School opens on the North side of Green Hill Rd Ref (19)
1874	Lal Lal falls reservation permanent Ref (20)
1884	Green Hill State School closed Ref (21)
?	Water reserve established below quarry site. Construction of dam Ref (22)
1889	Ballarat to Buninyong railway opened Ref (23)
1894	Land 100 acres reserved at Yankee Flat in the State Forest for a Sanatorium for Infectious disease cases. Ref (24)
1900	Fire started by a steam train engine at Mt Clear burnt to Buninyong and through to almost Geelong. Ref (25)

1901	Ballarat Rifle Range established on 1 st March 1901 as a Commonwealth of Australia facility. Ref (26)
1904	Cremorne Rifle Range established and opened on Friday 25 th March 1904. Ref (27)
1905	Green Hill State School reopened. Ref (28)
1907	Victorian State Forests Department established. Ref (29)
1909	Stray Bullet hits sewing machine of Mrs Shipley. Ref (30)
1911	Defence Department tries to close Cremorne range in favor of Canadian Range. Ref (31)
1913	Fire stated at Canadian and burnt hundreds of acres of grass through to Buninyong. Ref (32)
1919	Planning commenced again for an infectious disease hospital on a site reserved south of Recreation Rd. Ref (33)
1921	Ballaarat West and East councils amalgamated ref (34)
1922	An outbreak of fire occurred on the ranges beyond the Cremorne rifle ranges on Sunday afternoon, and at night could be seen very plainly from Ballarat. Ref (35)
1925	Grasstrees at Mt Clear. Ref (36)
1927	Green Hill State School moved to a new site in a transported school building. Ref (37)
1930	Depression era. Wood cutting and prospecting return to forest. Ref (38)
1930-50	Katy Ryans Store operated in Katy Ryans Rd. Ref (39)
1933	Buninyong Railway passenger service ceases. Ref(40)
1940's	Forest cut out for the war effort. Pax Hill and Kervarec property along Boundary Road bare of trees. Ref (41)
1947	Green Hill State School finally closes. Ref (42)
1949	Infectious Hospital Site gazetted as State Forest. Ref (43)
1949	Ballarat to Buninyong Railway freight service closes. Ref (44)
1940's and 1950's	Household firewood lots allocated annually to residents for firewood cutting and drying in the Mt Clear area. Ref (45)
1960	Pine plantation planting established on state wide scale. Ref (46)
1968	"Plantation was very likely to be aerially sprayed with 2,4,5-T between 1968 and 1977. The Dioxin TCDD may still exist in soil in this plantation". Ref (47)
1969	Laminex Industries formed to utilise pine plantation produce Forests (Softwood Timber Agreement) Act 1969 A.V.Wehl Industries (22-26 Webb Rd Niddrie) To make particleboard from Ballarat. Plantations from Ballarat, Beaufort, Castlemaine, Creswick, Daylesford, Macedon, Trentham. 1970 2 million board feet 1970-79 6 million board feet 1980-83 9 million board feet 1984 12 million board feet 1985-89 16 million board feet Ref (48)
1974	Warrenheip basin and water pipeline along Wilson St constructed. Ref (49)
October 1980	Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat submission to Land Conservation Council asking for Canadian Forest to be made a Regional Park. Ref (50)
1981 and 1982	Railway easements sold to adjoining landowners- Boak and Hately. Ref (51)
1982	Land Conservation Council Report final recommendations were: • The Council is aware that the Ballarat Water Commissioners have plans for future service basins, pipehead basins, break pressure tanks, and pipelines within the Yarrowee plantation and Canadian plantation south of Ballarat. Provision should be made for these installations as they are required. Page 24 • E14 Canadian (170 ha) page 30 • F1 That the present plantations of 8160 ha gross, shown on the map, continue to be used for the production of softwoods, and the provision of other goods and services compatible with the primary use, as well as providing opportunities for recreation and other uses and that they remain or become reserved forest under the provisions of the Forests Act 1958 and be managed by the Forests Commission. Ref (52)

1984	Water tanks constructed Wilson St. Ref (53)
1985	Recreation Rd Water tanks constructed and pipeline connected to Mt Helen. Ref (54)
1988	Recreation Rd Water Tanks land excised from Canadian Forest Source. Ref (55)
1989	Forests (Laminex Industries Agreement) Act 1989 For supply of softwood round timber to Laminex Industries from the Ballarat and Otways Softwood Management areas. (Connected to ACI Australia Ltd). Remains in force until 30/6/10. Licence fee \$1 per cubic metre commencing 1/7/90. Ref (56)
1991	Pat Previtt identifies Koala corridor between Creswick Forest, Canadian Forest, Enfield Forest and Brisbane Ranges in a report to the City of Ballarat. Ref (57)
27 August 1991	People for Prior Park established. Ref (58)
1992	First Ballarat Conservation strategy. Ref (59)
1993	Creation of Victorian Plantations Corporation on July 12 1993. Ref (60)
1996-2002	Friends of Canadian Forest Inc formed. Ref (61)
1998	In March 1998, the Victorian State Government announced its decision to privatise the Victorian Plantations Corporation (VPC). In October 1998 VPC was sold to Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd for \$550 million, a substantial premium above VPC's book value of \$352 million. The privatisation was facilitated by the sale of a licence to over 170,000 hectares of land vested with VPC. This licence grants Hancock the right to operate a plantation business on that land in perpetuity. The licence is transferable, registrable and divisible and all royalties or rents were received by the State in an up-front fee as part of the sale proceeds. Along with the licence, all of VPC's other assets, liabilities and timber supply contracts were transferred to Hancock. Ref (62)
2002	Pine trees removed and plantation replanted with approximately 300,000 bluegums in 2002. Area now likely to be leased by EPFL (East Victorian Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd) who are a consortium of Japanese paper manufacturers and a trading house. EPFL has a Heads of Agreement for the sale of bluegum with Enviroinvest. Ref (63)
2002	Rifle range sold by Commonwealth Government to Rifle Range Developments a private company. Ref (64)
2005	City of Ballarat Canadian Valley ODP created Ref (65)
2006	Koala Plan created. Ref (66)
2007	The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative brings people and organisations together to protect, link and restore healthy habitats over 3,600 kilometers from Western Victoria through NSW and the ACT to far North Queensland. The Canadian Regional Park is a key stone in the local link between the Grampians and the Wombat Forest. Ref (67)
2008	City of Ballarat Open Space Plan identifies need for management plan for Canadian Forest. Ref (68)
2010	C95 Canadian Valley ODP and Koala Plan incorporated into the Ballarat Planning Scheme. Ref (69)
2010	Australian Koala Foundation, COB and Friends of Sparrow Ground hold "Koala Corridor" meeting at Pax Hill, 60 in attendance. Ref (70)
2010	"Horse Puddler" and "Mount Clear mining landscape" at 44 Lavery Street placed on Heritage register in 2010. The site dates from approximately the 1850s. The site developed with the increase of gold mining in the Ballarat area. A few ounces of gold were discovered in 1851 which led to three eras of mining in the Ballarat Goldfields. The first era was from 1851 to 1852 where at the peak of the gold mining there were 20,000 diggers working the shallow alluvial deposits. During this time serious mining commenced at Canadian Gully along the White Horse Range to Mount Clear. High rainfall and gently sloping hills made gold extraction easy and was possible with little more than a pick, shovel, gold pan and handmade cradle. Early discoveries were dug up from a very shallow depth with mining by techniques associated with placer mining such as panning and sluice boxing. The second era was between 1853 and 1875 where the men worked deep alluvial deposits. During 01.07.1870 and 30.09.1870 the Star of the East Co. Operated a shaft mine in the site; VicMine ID 379592. The gold produced from this mine was 19 ounces. Ref (71)
2012	FoCC formed after Linda Zibell learns that the plantation lands will be returned to the Victorian Government by East Gippsland Plantations Limited. Ref (72)

2013	FoCC holds first Forum at Earth Ed, Mt Clear asking “The Canadian Forest, from Plantation to Multi Use Forest Park?” A Forum on approaching opportunities. Seventy in attendance. Ref (73)
2013	Ballarat East Network holds planning meeting at Ballarat Secondary College East Campus – Forest protection high on the agenda. Ref (74)
2014	FoCC Forum on: “The Canadian Forest should be a “Multi Use Forest Park” At Earth Ed Mt Clear. Eighty in attendance. Ref (75)
2014	FoCC launches bid to have a “Canadian Multi Purpose Forest Park” and requests all candidates in forthcoming election, to “commit in writing, that your leader and party will provide funding for the establishment of a Canadian Multi Use Forest Park?” Ref (76)
2014	Opposition Leader Dan Andrews promised to establish a Canadian State Park with \$2 million in funding. Ref (77)
2015 December 8 th	Canadian Regional Park bill introduced into the Victorian Parliament. Ref (78)
2016 August 5 th	Canadian Regional Park established. Ref (79)

Reference

1.	Booklet - Discovering Ballarats Bushland Field Naturalists Club Ballarat, 2002
2.	Pamphlet - FoCC “Imagine a Canadian Multi Use Forest Park” March 2014
3.	Article – Peter Darveniza Mining Engineer 2017
4.	Pamphlet – FoCC “Imagine a Canadian Multi Use Forest Park” March 2014
5.	http://majormitchellexpedition.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Map-of-1836-Expedition.jpg
6.	https://www.buninyong.vic.au/buninyong-history
7.	Gold Cairn inscription, Poverty Point
8.	https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/58e2d97bd0ce3927d844a571 Sites at which celebrated nuggets were found at Ballarat. Federation University Australia Historical Collection (Geoffrey Blainey Research Centre) Federation University Australia E.J. Barker Library (top floor) Mount Helen Victoria
9.	History of Ballarat / by W.B. Withers
10.	The Star, 18 March 1857, Trial Saw Mills advertisement
11.	History of Ballarat / by W.B. Withers
12.	History of Ballarat / by W.B. Withers
13.	“Rifle range closure a shot in the heart” ALEX EASTON 9 Jan 2002, 2:09, The Courier Ballarat.
14.	The Star March 17th 1863, Ballarat East Licencing Bench
15.	REPORT ON THE ADVISABLENESS OF ESTABLISHING STATE FORESTS 1865. By the Surveyor General, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey and the Secretary for Mines. http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/papers/govpub/VPARL1864-65No77.pdf
16.	The Star Friday 16th June 1864 Shire of Buninyong reserves Quarry
17.	Peter and Valmai Darveniza current owners
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20.	The Star Friday 19th October 1877 Lal Lal Falls racecourse reserve
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23.	Book The Golden Steam of Ballarat
24.	The Star, Wednesday 17 August 1898, Proposed sanatorium for infectious diseases
25.	Green Hill Prospect Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education 1970
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28.	Greenhills School – Unknown book extract
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30	Bendigo Independent
31	Star Newspaper 16 Feb 1911
32	Courier "One hundred years ago" Feb 2 nd 2013
33	Saturday 12 th July 1919 Council plans new infectious diseases hospital
34	http://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ballarat-history/historic-timeline-of-ballarat
35	The Argus, 17 th April 1922.
36	Postcard – 1925 Giant Flowering Grasstrees at Mt Clear
37	Greenhills School – Unknown book extract
38	Unknown
39	Nevilles Dad conversation
40	Book The Golden Steam of Ballarat
41	Conversation with G Kervarec and Pax Hill
42	Greenhills School – Unknown book extract
43	Quarry Reserve map 1951
44	Book The Golden Steam of Ballarat
45	Conversation with Don Boak
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47	http://hancockwatch.nfshost.com/docs/historylesson.htm
48	http://hancockwatch.nfshost.com/docs/companyinfo.htm#content_top
49	According to Kellie Steer a local resident
50	FNCB submission to Land Conservation Council of Victoria Ballarat Study Area October 1980
51	Ballarat3ParishPlanImperialmeasure2046.pdf map
52	Land Conservation Council, Ballarat Study Area Final Recomendations Page 24 and 33
53	According to Kellie Steer local resident
54	According to Kellie Steer local resident
55	Ballarat3ParishPlanImperialmeasure2046.pdf map.
56	http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/fiaa1989394/sch1.html
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75	FoCC Press release

76	FoCC Launch request
77	Media release Labor will establish a new state park in Ballarat – D Andrews 19 th September 2014
78	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY Daily Hansard Tuesday, 8 December - 2015 CROWN LAND LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CANADIAN REGIONAL PARK AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2015
79	Victorian Government Gazette August 2 2016- Govenor General's declaration of Canadian Regional Park

Locality and Road names taken from the City of Ballarat Road and Open space index

Name	Location and or explanation
Canadian	Canadian 3350 - Man called Canadian Swift
Mt Clear	Mount Clear 3350 - Nearby hill
Mt Helen	Mount Clear 3350 - Nearby hill
Green Hill	Name of Green Hill, a prominent hill on the east side of Bell Avenue
Buninyong	Mount Buninyong - Wathawurrung: bun-a-nyung – man lying on his back with knees raised (from shape of hill)
Mt Warrenheip	Mount Warrenheip - Moorabool Shire - Wathawurrung: warrenyeep – uncertain, but supposedly “emu feathers” from appearance presented by ferns
Ballarat East	Ballarat
Butts	Butts - Canadian: near rifle range butts
Eureka	Eureka 3350 - Eureka lead (Greek: “eureka” – I found it!)
Golden Point	Golden Point 3350 -Discovery of gold
Madmans Flat	Madmans Flat - Near Canadian
Reid	Reid - Near Mount Clear and Mount Helen Named after David Reid, settler
Poverty Point	Poverty Point - Near Golden Point
Prior Park	Ballarat East – City of Ballarat began tee planting on the land in 1931. Land for the Mt Xavier Gold Club excised in 1957. Named after Cr Joseph Pryor 1916 to 1966
Sovereign Hill	Sovereign Hill - Near Golden Point
Strawberry Glen	Sovereign Hill - Near Golden Point
Levy	Levy - Near Ballarat East, Ballarat East councillor
Yankee Flat	Yankee Flat
Roads and Tracks in and connecting to the Woowookarung Regional Parks (24 in total)	
Bakers Rd	
Bailey Rd	
Bell Avenue	
Boak Rd	
Boundary Rd	
Clayton St	Clayton Street - Discoverer of gold
Clay Rd	
Cathie St	Cathie Street - Gaz.1964: John Cathie, first Balt East MLA, 1859
Davidson Rd	
Dozed Track	
Foos Lane	
Fussell St	Fussell Street - J Fussell, publican (spelling ?)
Green Hill Rd	Road to Green Hill
Katy Ryans Rd	Named after Katy Ryan of Katy Ryans Store in Katy Ryans Rd 1930-50
Kennedy St	Kennedy Street - Gazetted 1968
Lavery Avenue	
Long St	Long Street - Gazetted1964
Olympic Av	
Recreation Rd	
Richards St	Richards Street - Gazetted1926
Wilson St	Wilson Street - Noble Wilson, Mayor
Woodwards Lane	
Spencer St	Spencer Street - Rev George Spencer

York St	York Street - Duke of York. Originally Esmond Street, after Ballarat East Councillor, renamed when it became red-light district, (part) Gazetted 1926
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Prepared by Jeff Rootes for the FoCC June 2017