



FoCC Incorporated February 2018 News Update



Issue Number 41

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Imagine Ballarat East planning session

On Wednesday February 21st forty people attended the “Imagine Ballarat East” planning session hosted by the FoCC and presented and facilitated by the City of Ballarat strategic planning staff.

The session produced a wide variety of issues, observations and wishes for the future of Ballarat East and the interface between the city and Park.

Significant issues included the need to protect trees much better, for larger allotments adjacent to the forest, further improvements to the waterways, planning and extension of the walking tracks, open spaces and better connections to the Park itself. Some items included the notion of valuing and therefore protecting the dark sky. The session was a feast of discussion, the sharing of ideas and knowledge about the environment of Ballarat East.



Kieran leading the discussion at the session

Sailors Gully Neighbourhood formed

Sunday Feb 11th saw the first meeting of the newly formed Sailors Gully Neighbourhood group. About 30 local

residents of the Sailors Gully area met to discuss issues effecting their area and to workshop ideas to improve their local environment. After the meeting, the group walked to the site of the Mt Clear diggings horse puddler relic. The horse puddler site is one of Ballarat’s early gold mining relics and is situated in the Sailors Gully area. The site is historically significant and is registered with Heritage Victoria.



Sailors Gully Neighbourhood neighbours meeting together at the site of the Horse Puddler



The horse puddler in the early days according to locals.

The Sailors Gully Neighbourhood group has a Facebook page and is planning a program of activities. More details when available.

Congratulations to all for taking the initiative.

Bob Hartmann

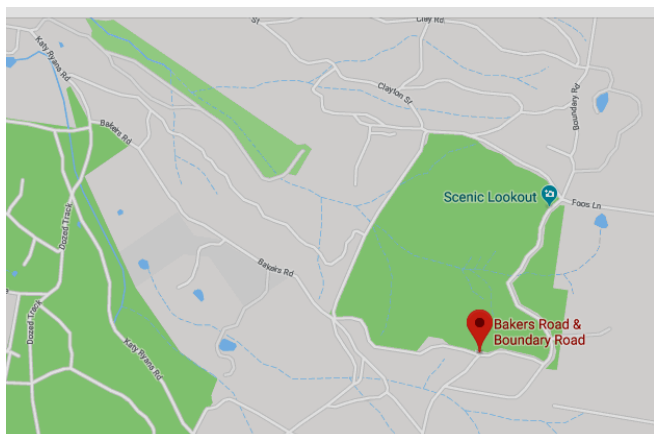
Looking at the stars

FoCC Looking at the stars and Ballarat lights. Gathering at 7pm Saturday evening March 10th at the lookout at the corner of Boundary Rd and Bakers Rd and watching the sunset and lights of Ballarat come on. The evening view is

one of Ballarat's hidden treasures. It is arguably the best outlook for Ballarat.

The event will be supported by Judith Bailey from the Ballarat observatory.

Please bring chairs, binoculars, nibbles and drinks. We are hoping for a warm night but you know what Ballarat can be like. Red dot below shows the location:



Clean Up Australia Day March 4th

The Friends of Sparrow Ground are conducting the annual clean up australia day event at Sparrow Ground 10 am to midday Sunday March 4th 2018.

Meet at the playground, Cnr Spencer St and Kline St Canadian. This is the nineteenth year of the FoSG clean up.

Registration is at the meeting place.

Bring sturdy footwear, gloves and a sense of adventure.

Planned burning

Forest Fire Management Victoria is preparing to burn several sections of the park.

As part of the preparation some old trees have been removed. Visitors to the Park will notice trees cut down alongside the fire edges, usually along road and tracks. The criteria for removal is that where trees are close to the fire boundary and are deemed unsafe for fire crews to work near, they are removed. The trees deemed unsafe are often coppice regrowth on old stumps or rotten stumps and are at risk of falling over. Once removed, future burns will not need the same level of safety tree removal. It has made a bit of a mess where it has occurred.

Yukon to Yellowstone Bio Corridor Event

Run by the Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance

Featuring Dr Gary Tabor presenting:

CONNECTING WILDSPACES SO PEOPLE

AND NATURE CAN THRIVE

Gary is a world leading expert on connectivity conservation. He co-founded the trailblazing Yellowstone to Yukon conservation initiative, established the Kibale

National Park in Uganda and established the World Banks Mountain Gorilla Conservation Trust. He is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Large Landscape Conservation in the United States.

He has much to offer us as we pursue our ambitious vision to re-connect habitat across Central Victoria. Gary will speak about the priorities and opportunities for 21st Century conservation practice.

Come and be inspired and hear how we all need to be, and can be, part of the solution in Central Victoria.

When: 6-7pm 20 March, 2018 (doors open at 5.30, drinks available)

Where: Kyneton Mechanics Institute, 81 Mollison St Kyneton

Tickets: Free to Biolinks Alliance members, \$10 for non-members.

Find out more: www.biolinksalliance.org.au/gary-tabor-talk

Buninyong Smart Building and Living Expo

The Buninyong Smart building and living expo on Sunday Feb 25th provided a great opportunity to talk with locals and visitors about the issues in and surrounding the Park. Welcome to a dozen new friends as result and thankyou to all the friends who came by and shared their stories.

Many thanks to Alex from Parks Victoria and FoCC members Linda, John, Don, Olive, Rob, Bob and Jeff for assistance during the day.



Rob, Alex and Bob at Buninyong

Mt Clear College Fire Ecology project

Mt Clear College's Earth Ed teachers are planning a new course and activities to teach students about Fire Ecology by having the students measure the conditions and fuel loads in the Woookarung Regional Park.

On Thursday March 22nd there is an opportunity for Friends to participate in a trial run of the project. By having adults use the fire ecology assessment program, Earth Ed will gain valuable baseline data, prior to students beginning the program.

This is a great opportunity for any willing friends to volunteer a morning and afternoon to trial the program.

Start time is 9.30am lunch is provided. and finish 2.00pm at Earth Ed. The day will involve some preparatory work and then field work. Good footwear and field work clothing suggested.

FoCC is hoping for eight volunteers to participate. To participate and for more information Jeff Rootes 0408509591 or Josh at Earth Ed 53372090

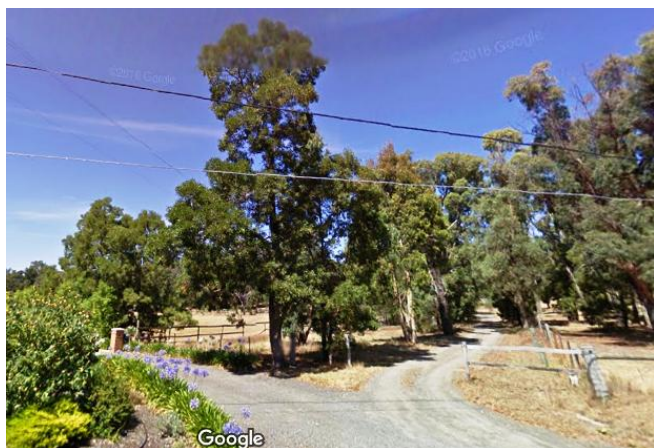
Mature Blackwood tree removed from Haymes Court

A lovely mature Blackwood tree has been removed from Haymes Court by the City of Ballarat. The tree was there long before any houses were ever built in the area.

According to the COB it may have posed a risk to nearby power lines so it was removed. Everywhere else in Ballarat when a tree is considered too close to power lines, the tree trimmers will first lop the top off and keep the tree. About 4 meters off the top would have fixed this particular problem

Why was this not done?

It seems to be that every time there is a complaint about a tree, the tree is seen as disposable. This tree removal flies in the face of the COB's stated plan for 40% urban forest.



The tall blackwood tree (slight left of centre) before it was cut down.

Koalas under attack from developers again

Two new development applications have been posted in Canadian both which seek to cut down Koala vegetation.

One is in Bennet St and the other the 600 block of Kline St.

The two applications contain professional reports which say that there is no evidence that Koalas are resident or have been in the area, therefore the developer should be able to remove the vegetation and put in more lots.

This attitude is completely contrary to the requirements of the COB Koala Plan. However recent events in Hermitage Avenue and Kirby Avenue show that unless locals stand up

for the protection of the vegetation, developers seem to get their way!.

If anyone in the Bennett St, Clayton St, Richards St or Kline St adjacent blocks has heard or spotted any Koalas in the last few years please let the FoCC know. Many Koalas are known to be about, because of their grunting, particularly around each November.

FoCC members have had experience in the past where local observations of Koalas have helped overturn the developers claim of no Koalas.

BBOC Tree Counters

The Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club Wednesday walking group ramble on February 28th was into the tree planting area near Sailors Gully.

Walkers counted the planted trees and determined the survival rate. Of the 260 trees planted, 200 are going strong, 12 are struggling and 48 have not survived the hot summer. An excellent result for the walkers and the trees. Many thanks to John Petheran for organising the count.



The ramblers surveying the tree planting area



Rob, John, Andy recording and Barb counting planted trees (L to R)

A pig in the Corridor

Recently a feral pig took up residence in the Eureka St / Long St area. Locals first heard pig squeals in Pryor Park and they believe the pig may have been dumped there.

In recent years there have been reports of pig dumping in the Enfield forest area.

After seeking help from the COB and other agencies to no avail, finally farm expert Phil Sansom assisted with the capture of the pig.



The pig after capture - Image Maggie Dannart

FoCC facebook

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

Or email Rob at rloveband@gmail.com with images comments etc.

Many thanks to Michaela Settle for the overseeing facebook for the past year and a bit.

FoCC Membership.

The Friends are offering membership to all Friends of the Canadian Corridor for 2018 as this year's membership expires on Dec 31st 2017. Membership renewal reminders will be sent out soon. Attached with this newsletter is a membership form.

Membership enquiries Treasurer Peter – **0475 204161**

Last year (2017) the FoCC conducted many events and activities such as:

- Late summer evening Ballarat views from the Lookout
- An Autumn walk in the north of the Park and the old Cremorne Rifle Range
- June forum -**From Plantation to Woowookarung Regional Park – What's next?** Attended by 60 friends.

- Participation in the renaming of the Park to Woowookarung Regional Park with Parks Victoria and the Victorian Government.
- Winter planting of 260 native trees in conjunction with the Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat.
- The Skyline walk from Federation University to Pax Hill
- The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat and FoCC wild flower trail walk in October
- Regular News Updates for the friends
- Bi monthly FoCC meetings with guest presenters
- Ongoing advocacy with state and local government, authorities and other community organisations.

Membership is a good 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 a \$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 news update list as a friend need to take no action.

Draft 2018 calendar

- March 10th 2018 – “Looking at the stars” at the lookout.
- March 22nd Earth Ed Fire ecology trial
- April 18th 2018 General meeting
- May 2018 – Autumn fungi walk in the Park
- June 20th 2018 - FoCC Forum
- July/August 2018 – Tree planting
- August 15th 2018 – General meeting
- August 26th Walking mine tour of the Park
- October 17th 2018 – Annual Meeting
- October late Wildflower walk and pop up trail

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.

Web - www.focc.asn.au **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/>

Unsubscribe by emailing the editor focinfo@gmail.com

Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated

Registered number A0097535



Membership Application

Individual membership of the FoCC runs from January 1st to December 31st each year at a cost of \$20 per year Community groups may be represented by individual members.

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Name of Group represented: (if applicable)	
Address first line:	
Address second line:	
Town/City:	
State:	Post Code:
Home Phone:	
Mobile phone:	
Email address:	
I agree to the rules of association and abide by the FoCC committee of Management decisions	
Applicants signature:	
Date:	
Applications may be sent by email to focinfo@gmail.com or by mail to the Treasurer (address below)	

Payment may be made by
1. Bank transfer to details: BSB 06 3502 Account No 10955630. Please add your name to the bank transfer.
2. Payment to the Treasurer at a FoCC meeting
3. Cheques to made out to "FoCC Incorporated" and addressed to:
FoCC Treasurer PO Box 83, Mt Clear Vic, 3350.

Date Received:
Amount \$
Receipt No