



FoCC Incorporated March 2018 News Update



Issue Number 42

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April 18th General Meeting Focussing on “Phytophthora” session

Parks Victoria have arranged for **Mr David Smith**, to be our guest presenter at our FoCC general meeting **7pm, Wednesday April 18th** at Earth Ed, Olympic Avenue, Mt Clear.

Our guest presenter, Mr David Smith is Forest Biosecurity Officer, Forest Pathologist, Entomologist and Chief Plant Health Officer Unit for Biosecurity , Agriculture, Food and Fibre in the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

He will present on the threat “phytophthora” presents to the Parks well being.



A dead grasstree on Boundary Rd - A Phytophthora victim?

The death of grass trees is an indicator that the disease may be present.

Phytophthora cinnamomi is a soil-borne water mould that produces an infection which causes a condition in plants called "root rot" or "dieback".

This presentation will offer the opportunity to hear first hand about the disease and its threat to the Park and what may be done.

Sailors Gully Neighbourhood March 18th 2018

“Sailors Gully Boulevard residents in Mount Clear have banded together to clean up their creek in an effort to improve the aesthetic value of the area’s bush reserves.



CLEAN UP: Sailors Gully residents Graeme Hodgeson and Stephen Pelchen clean up the creek in an effort to revitalise their bush reserves and walking trails. Picture: Kate Healy

Residents have formed the Sailors Gully Neighbourhood Committee to create plans for the beautification of the area, which member Stephen Pelchen said began with a clean up of litter.

“The first part of it is to do a clean up... then we can look at the next phases of what we do about beautifying the area, like putting some more native plants in, attracting more bird life and finding ways to make this whole estate look better than it is in a way that is natural and sustainable,” he said.

“Some of those ideas might be to elevate the paths so they are out of the wet in winter, some of them get inundated and are flooded and unpassable by foot. We will look at ways at how we will present to council over the next few weeks.”

Courtesy of The Courier March 20 2018

Clean Up Australia Day Sunday March 4th 2018

The Friends of Sparrow Ground conducted their annual Clean Up Australia day event at Sparrow Ground .

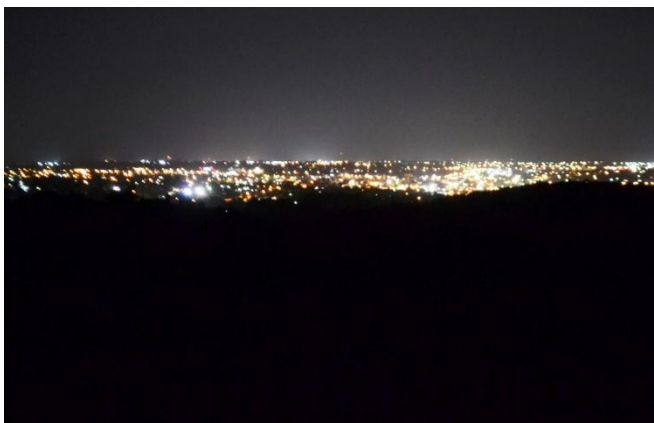


Roy, Dianne and Wendy sorting rubbish at Sparrow Ground

Looking at the stars

FoCC Looking at the stars and Ballarat lights was held on Saturday evening March 10th at the lookout at the corner of Boundary Rd and Bakers Rd. Judith Bailey from the Ballarat Observatory enlivened the small crowd of viewers with an explanation of the skies explaining the stars and the indigenous interpretations of the animals in the sky. Many thanks to Judith.

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



Ballarat from the Lookout Saturday March 10th 2018

Koalas under attack from developers again

Two development applications were posted recently in Canadian, both which seek to cut down Koala vegetation. The applications in Bennet St and the 600 block of Kline St claim that is no evidence that Koalas are resident or have been in the area, therefore developers should be able to remove the vegetation and put in more lots.

FoCC members attended a City of Ballarat mediation session about the development applications. They strongly put forward an expectation of adherence to the City's Koala planning laws and retention of Koala Habitat.

Mt Clear College Fire Ecology project

Mt Clear College's Earth Ed teachers have created a new course to teach students about Fire Ecology. The program works by having the students measure the conditions and fuel loads in the Woowookarung Regional Park. FoCC members assisted the program with a trial of the program,



Paul, Josh and John collecting data. Image J Petheran

"On behalf of the team at Earth Ed, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to John, John, Paul, Jeff and Bernadette for their time on our recent Fire Ecology unit data gathering day. The data you collected on the day, and your feedback is invaluable in the development of our unit. I hope you all enjoyed this experience and look forward to working with you (and other FOCC members) in the future." Josh Ambrosy, Education Officer, Mt Clear College

Unidentified objects

Keen observers found four white dots in the Park after observing some drone footage taken by Parks Victoria.



The mystery has been resolved with the objects turning out to be polystyrene concrete slab support material.



Dark sky proposal

The view from the lookout in Woowookarung Regional Park of Ballarat's lights highlights a growing problem in our developed world. We are slowly losing our dark skies at night. In major cities many stars have simply disappeared from view due to light pollution.

There is an international movement to protect the notion of a dark sky. The Friends believe that making Woowookarung Regional Park a dark sky reserve is a good idea. Darkness allows the flora and fauna to live in a natural landscape as well as allowing the Ballarat Observatory to maintain its observatory activities.

For more information about "Dark Sky" see www.darksky.org

Dementia trail

A proposal by the Ballarat office of Dementia Australia to construct a dementia friendly walking and experience trail in Woowookarung Regional Park has been successfully awarded \$15000 by Dementia Friendly Communities.

This is great news for the Park and very helpful for people living with Dementia and their carers to experience, smell and feel the natural environment in a safe and easily accessible trail environment.

The likely site for the trail is for an entrance and car park on Katy Ryans Rd just inside the Park boundary. The project will take some time to plan and organise.

Bio diversity application

The FoCC committee has prepared an application for a grant from DEWLP to remove gorse and broom weeds and revegetate with Koala and woodland bird trees and shrubs an area of 5.7 hectares of land adjacent to Katy Ryans Rd.

The site links two remnant koala habitat vegetation islands in the centre of Woowookarung Regional Park.



Mudhole filling

Parks Victoria rangers have been active in organising the removal of mud holes from tracks. Removing a mud hole removes the so called challenge for 4WD drivers to "beat the hole". This former mud hole is located at the south west corner of the planned revegetation area



Burnt Cars again

Another burnt car just off Wilson St Ballarat East near the cnr of Boundary Rd. The resulting fire burnt a large area around the vehicle and required CFA attendance and Parks Victoria ranger patrolling overnight.



Golden Nugget tours

Woowookarung Regional Park now has a Parks Victoria registered tourist operator offering walks, tours and nighttime experiences in the Park.

The Nighttime experience may involve using spotlights to highlight animals in the Park.

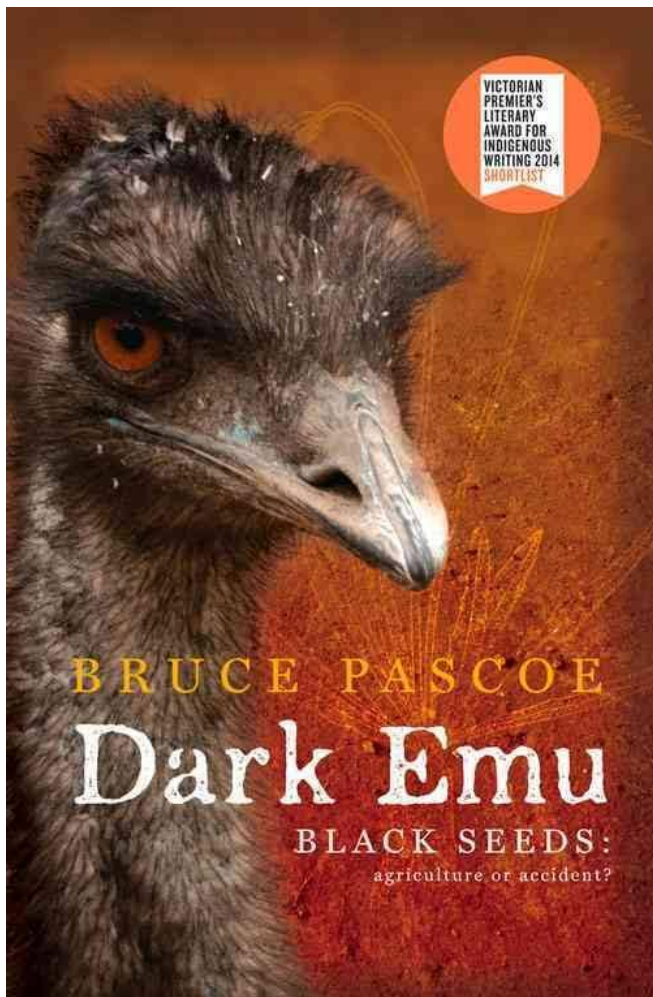
More details www.goldennuggettours.com.au

June General Meeting

The FoCC committee has organised for Mt Bruce Pascoe author of the book “**Dark Emu**” to be guest speaker at our June 20th meeting.

Bruce will be talking about his book **Dark Emu** and how it is time to rethink the hunter-gatherer tag for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians.

Bruce’s research and conclusions are most interesting, illuminating and challenging. The book may change our views of how indigenous people lived in the area prior to European settlement.



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.

FoCC Membership.

The Friends are offering membership to all Friends of the Canadian Corridor for 2018. Attached with this newsletter is a membership form.

Membership enquiries Treasurer Peter – **0475 204161**

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 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 news update list as a friend need to take no action.

2018 calendar

- April 18th 2018 General meeting featuring David Smith on Phytophthora.
- June 20th 2018 - FoCC Forum featuring Bruce Pascoe author of **Dark Emu**.
- July/August 2018 – Tree planting
- August 15th 2018 – General meeting
- August 26th Walking mine tour of the Park
- October 17th 2018 – Annual Meeting
- October 21st 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