



# FoCC Incorporated August 2019 News Update

## Issue Number 58

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### 1. August General meeting

At the FoCC August meeting (21 Aug) guest presenter, Colleen Filippa gave a very enlightening talk about her company 'Fifteen Trees'. Fifteen Trees is celebrating 10 years of working with businesses including builders, car dealers and even a funeral director to offset their carbon footprint. Fifteen trees have planted 150000 trees across Australia. Reforestation is seen as one of the best ways to mitigate against increasing CO2 level and subsequent the climate change. We were very impressed with Colleen's passion and initiative to tackle climate change at a grassroots level! Read more about her company at <https://15trees.com.au>



Image: Colleen Filippa presenting at the FoCC meeting



Image: Part of Colleen's presentation

### 2. Park works – The Lookout opened Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

On August 5<sup>th</sup> Parks Victoria opened the new Lookout on the Corner of Bakers Road and Boundary Rd in the Park.

### Woookarung Park has a new view

Greg Gliddon

Latest Ne



BEST VIEW: (L-R) Alex Schipperen, Ranger Team Leader-Parks Victoria, Rob Loveband, Friends of Canadian Corridor, Cris Yates and Chris Allen, Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club. Picture: Parks Victoria

BALLARAT has a new contender for its best view with the opening of the lookout and picnic area at the Woookarung Regional Park.

New picnic tables, a carpark and signage has been added to the site which provides an outstanding view of the city in a peaceful and tranquil environment.

Ranger Team Leader-Parks Victoria Alex Schipperen said the new lookout was easily accessible for drivers, bushwalkers and cyclists and could be accessed from Boundary Road.

"The lookout provides one of the best views around Ballarat and is a perfect spot to start a walk or ride through the park."

"On a clear day you can see all the way to Mount Langi Ghiran near Ararat, while at night it's a fantastic spot for stargazing."



The new car park has also opened

"In time, this spot will connect to a wider trail network through the park, including a 10,000-steps walk and a dementia-friendly sensory trail, which is being designed with input from the community, people living with dementia, their carers, and health professionals."

A permanent viewing platform is among the next stage of the development of the site which has been earmarked as part of the park's Strategic Directions Plan.

Article: Courtesy of The Ballarat Courier August 5<sup>th</sup>

### 3. Koala news

If you see koalas please record time, place and hopefully an image. Send to [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com)

Ballarat East koala sightings. Happy residents in York St and George St have reported a koala in their neighbourhood. At first it was thought it was from the nearby wildlife park but not so.



Image: 29 July 2019 Courtesy of Cr Jim.

Another happy koala at Mt Buninyong Reserve.



Image: August 11<sup>th</sup> Courtesy of Taneale

And from the BADGAR wildlife shelter, the below image of a mum and joey found in Jenkins Drive, Sebastopol. Both were relocated

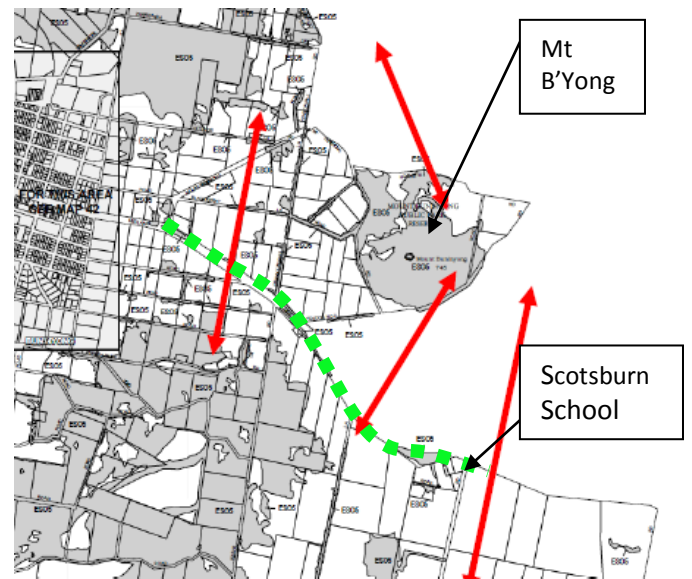


Image August 7th: Courtesy of Naomi.

### 4. Midlands Highway Upgrade

Recently Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) began consultation with local environment and community groups about the impact of an upgrade to the highway between Buninyong and Clarendon. The upgrade involves adding turning lanes and widening sections of the road which will impact on the tree lining the road.

FoCC has submitted to Regional Roads Victoria a request that the biolink or wildlife corridor as shown by the red arrows and the Midlands Hwy crossing shown by green dotted line in the image below considered as a wildlife crossing.



FoCC submitted that the highway between Mt Buninyong Road and Yuulong Road :

- Be clearly identified in the plans being drawn up for the Midlands Highway upgrade

- Have habitat trees within that zone subject to high levels of protection
- Have wildlife safety measures applied where appropriate using knowledge from the Tasmanian “ REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF WILDLIFE ROADKILL” report.
- Have appropriate signage which may include night time speed reduction applied to alert drivers to the proximity of wildlife
- Have any offset plantings that may be required as a result of tree removal planted in the biolink or wildlife corridor with appropriate species and spacing. The purpose being to have no net loss of biodiversity in the corridor.

**5. Access Skills Training Tree planting**

In the week after the monster tree planting day a further 100 trees were planted by Access Skills Training students.



Image: Students being briefed on site. Courtesy of Cat.

**6. The Woowookarung Regional Park plan architects win 2019 VIC Landscape Architecture Awards**

The 2019 Victoria Landscape Planning - Landscape Architecture Awards - **Woowookarung Regional Park Plan** – was awarded to Site Office the contracted Landscape architects for the Woowookarung draft management plan.

Last year the draft management plan was part of the Australian landscape architecture pavilion presentation at the 2018 Biennale in Venice last year on the theme of landscape restoration.

Congratulations to Chris and Suzy at Site Office.

**7. Request for images of the pine/blue gum plantations.**

The Canadian Forest and its associated plantations have a most interesting history. Images and stories of how the

plantations were planted, harvested and removed are very rare. Apart from a 2005 image showing blue gums growing and a 2012 images showing the bare ground after the blue gums were removed FoCC has no other images from that time.



Image: 2005 blue gums growing courtesy Hancock Watch



Image: 2012 After the blue gums were removed but before the final ground mulching. Courtesy Hancock Watch.

If anyone has images or stories that add detail to the forest and plantation story please contact FoCC at email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com).

**8. Queensland plan to convert Pine Plantation to Rain forest**

The Australian Newspaper recently led with two articles on a plan to turn a pine plantation back into forest, trumpeting it as an Australian First.

FoCC would like to point out that the returning of ex plantation land to forest has been going on in the Woowookarung Regional Park now for the last six years.



The Australian Page 7 August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**9. Current FoCC activities, issues and projects**

FoCC is involved in a diverse range of current activities, issues and projects such as:

- The Pick My project nature trail soon to be constructed by Parks Victoria
- The Dementia Trail with Parks Victoria and Dementia Australia. Expected completion Dec 2019.
- Revegetating the Koala corridor by way of the monster tree planting ably assisted with a DELWP grant from the Victorian Government.
- Working with Regional Roads Victoria on identifying ways to improve the wildlife corridor across the Midlands Highway at Buninyong
- Supporting the VEAC proposal for the reclassification of the Wombat Forest and Mt Cole Forest to State and Regional Park areas.
- Working with Mt Clear College staff and students on park related educational activities.
- Contributing to the City of Ballarat's Ballarat East strategic plan including identification of the wildlife corridor and areas of significant natural values.
- Collaborating with the City of Ballarat, DELWP, Parks Victoria and the Rifle Range owner on a proposal to develop the rifle range as a part housing part parkland solution.

- Citizen Science Koala spotting and working with the Australian Koala Foundation to re-energise the City of Ballarat's Koala Plan of Management.
- Objecting to inappropriate development proposals at three sites:
  - 846 Eureka St: Objecting to a development plan to pipe a designated waterway.
  - Hillview Rd: Objecting to a development plan to bulldoze 2 hectares of Koala Habitat.
  - Mount St and Government Rd: Objecting to a plan by DELWP to sell off the two roads to a private developer. Each road contains Koala Habitat.
- Running the wildflower walk with the Ballarat Field Naturalists
- Keeping the community informed by way of FoCC facebook, Website and Newspaper and regular informative meetings.

The above short list identifies the significant current issues. The Canadian Corridor runs from Creswick Forest down to Enfield Forest and in between. The landscape is dynamic and a new item of interest is always a possibility. Any member of friend wishing to know more feel free to contact FoCC for more information.

**FoCC facebook**

Rob at webmaster@focc.asn.au is now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/)

Currently we have just over 382 friends on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

**2019 draft calendar**

- October 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Annual Meeting – Guest topic Dementia Sensory Trail.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> Wildflower walk and pop up trail
- December early Christmas at the lookout

The FoCC update is published on behalf of the Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated, Registered No A0097535B. Circulation this issue is 522.

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.

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