



FoCC Incorporated July 2020 News Update

Issue Number 68



News Update Features

1. Bunny Rail mea culpa
2. Park works
3. Regrowth in the 2019 planned burn area.
4. Vandals, dirt dumpers and firewood thieves
5. Tree planting August 9th
6. Tree stake pull and tree guard collection
7. CCMA Revegetation in the Gorge
8. Vale "Hillview Koala - unknown to July 8th 2019
9. Activities in the Park
10. Koalas spotted
11. Colours of the Park
12. Bringing the drop slab hut into the 21st century
13. Park connections
14. Exploration
15. Specimen Gully friends works
16. Cherry Ballart and white winged chough images wanted

1. Bunny Rail mea culpa

In the June issue of FoCC News Update mention was made of the heritage wooden rail bridge on 55 Recreation Road as being the last remaining rail bridge.

Alas, a few hundred metres south of the old Mt Clear Railway Station (Earth Ed Science Centre) are the much larger remnants of another wooden Bunny rail bridge. This bridge is in private hands and public access does not exist.



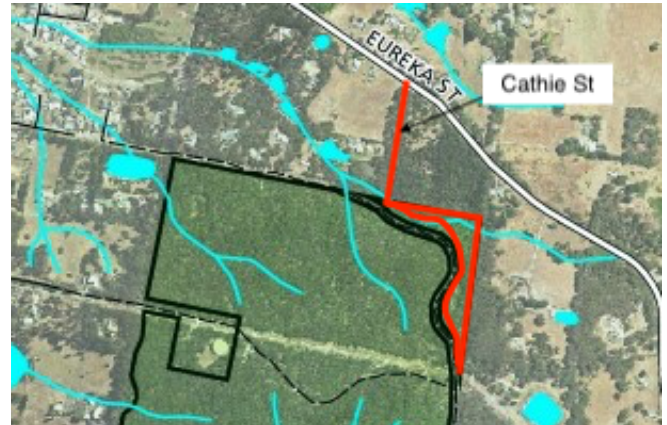
Bunny rail bridge across the "Unnamed Forest Creek"
Image: Courtesy of Andrew.

2. Park Works

The City of Ballarat has resurfaced and graded the badly eroded section of Boundary Road between Foes Lane and Recreation Road.

Fire reduction works.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) had a planned burn of the North East Corner of the Park scheduled for Autumn. The recent wet weather had left the area too wet to burn. FFMV decided to use a front slasher to reduce the fire risk and remove large amounts of blackberry and broom. Broom and blackberry in Cathies Lane were also removed.



Map of fuel reduction area adjacent to Boundary Rd.



Front slasher at work. Image courtesy of Blake July 2nd 2020

3. Regrowth in the 2019 planned burn area.

Regrowth in the 2019 planned burn area has been spectacular with sundews, grasses, shrubs and eucalypts shooting strongly.



Regrowth just north of Clay Road. July 11th 2020

4. Vandals, dirt dumpers and firewood thieves

Vandals drove a stolen 4WD through both the North and South Gates over the weekend of July 11th and 12th. During the following week the gates were replaced by Parks.



Vandals destroyed the South Gate July 12th 2020

Tip truck dirt dumpers have dumped metres of excavated fill into the Park on the south side of Katy Ryans Rd. Other dumps are at Recreation Road and Olympic Avenue.



Dirt dump at Katy Ryans Rd July 20th 2020

Firewood thieves are still active with several new sites being discovered.

Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals. FoCC encourages Park friends to report illegal track builders, rubbish dumpers and wood thieves to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email: info@parks.vic.gov.au Please note the offender's registration number if applicable, location and details.

5. Tree Planting on at August 7th and 9th

500 trees are to be planted in the Park on the old motor cycle track off Katy Ryans Rd. The event is being organised with a clear eye on social distancing and rules with a maximum of ten (10) attendees The first session will be on Friday August 7th at 10 am to noon. And on Sunday August 9th at 1pm to 3pm. To volunteer please email focinfo@gmail.com or text or call Jeff on **0408509591**. First in first to be a planter as they say! Stop Press! "masks required"

6. Tree stake pull and tree guard collection

A small group of intrepid and socially distanced FoCC members recycled 1535 tree guard Stake and 500 tree guards for reuse in the proposed August tree planting.



The ten volunteers all socially distancing July 12th 2020



A ute load of 800 stakes and 275 guards. July 12th 2020

7. Revegetation in the Gorge

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority CCMA and Parks Victoria collaborated to plant 500 grasses and rushes on a steep old track on the south side of the gorge. The plantings will stabilise the bare track stopping erosion.



CCMA contractors at work July 22nd 2020

8. Activities in the Park

The Park continues to amaze with many varied recreational activities.

Prospectors have been out in the Park trying their luck. Gold prospecting is legal with a ‘miners right’. Prospectors are required to fill in any holes created and to not disturb vegetation. Most prospectors do the right thing. One reported finding some very small nuggets. “Secret business when asked where!”

Runners etc in the Park. Running routes keep showing up with tin markers, white arrows and other times pink arrows or ribbons on trees all indicating the route.



Pink arrow showing the path. July 2020

Scouts Spotted in the middle of a hike and planned activities were a group of scouts and leaders.



South Gate activities. July 18th 2020

9. Vale “Hillview Koala - Unknown to July 8th 2019.

Last year a deceased koala was found beside Yarrowee River just below Hill View Rd.

The Koala was in poor condition and autopsied by the University of Melbourne at Werribee “Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences” to determine the cause of death. The comments on the Koalas autopsy were:

“Lymphoid atrophy of the spleen can be due to many factors such as aging, chronic diseases, starvation. In koalas, particularly in males, lymphoid atrophy in spleen with no any other significant abnormalities in other organs has been described with ‘Koala stress syndrome’ of which the

etiology is unknown. These koalas appear to be depressed, anorectic and to die eventually with no other illness.

In the months before the death of Hillview Koala substantial clearing of Koala habitat occurred adjacent to where the koala was found. Locals had observed Koalas in the trees before they were cleared. There is a current subdivision proposal before Council for this land. This autopsy is one of a range of topics FoCC wishes to discuss with the City of Ballarat Koala Plan implementation committee when it is finally convened.

10. Koalas Spotted

Spotted on Long St Canadian.



Image courtesy of Sam 3pm July 6 2020

And at Durham Lead a mum and joey. See the video record on the FoCC facebook.



Video image courtesy of Darcy, Monday July 20th 2020

11. **Colours of the Park.** This tree is on the north side of Katy Ryans Rd and has the most marvellous red tinge to its bark.



July 9th 2020

12. Bringing the drop slab hut into the 21st century

Hi Friends of Ballarat Region Treegrowers
 We're embarking on a small-is-beautiful GoFundMe project aiming to build a one room 21st century drop slab hut in a central clearing at our 15ha ImLal biorich plantation, and we're looking to raise funds so we can raise our modern version of the miner's hut.

Not only frugal in the use of resources and low in embedded energy, the tiny hut will be constructed by fine wood craftsman, Lachlan Park, and be thing of beauty. It will spruik the quality and aesthetics of common local native timber, including eucalypts, as a materially renewable resource. It will act as a focus for community education on how we can optimise biodiversity while utilising resources from native plants. We're repurposing the traditional Aussie drop slab hut to suit a more sustainable future.

DONATE via GoFundMe:-
https://www.gofundme.com/modern-traditional-slab-hut?pc=em_dn_contacts_r&cid=r01-159374486742-f82953cd5f684e51&member=4940756

- For more about the modern slab hut project, check out the page on – www.biorichplantations.com/21chut
- Lachlan's website is – www.lpwoodwork.com

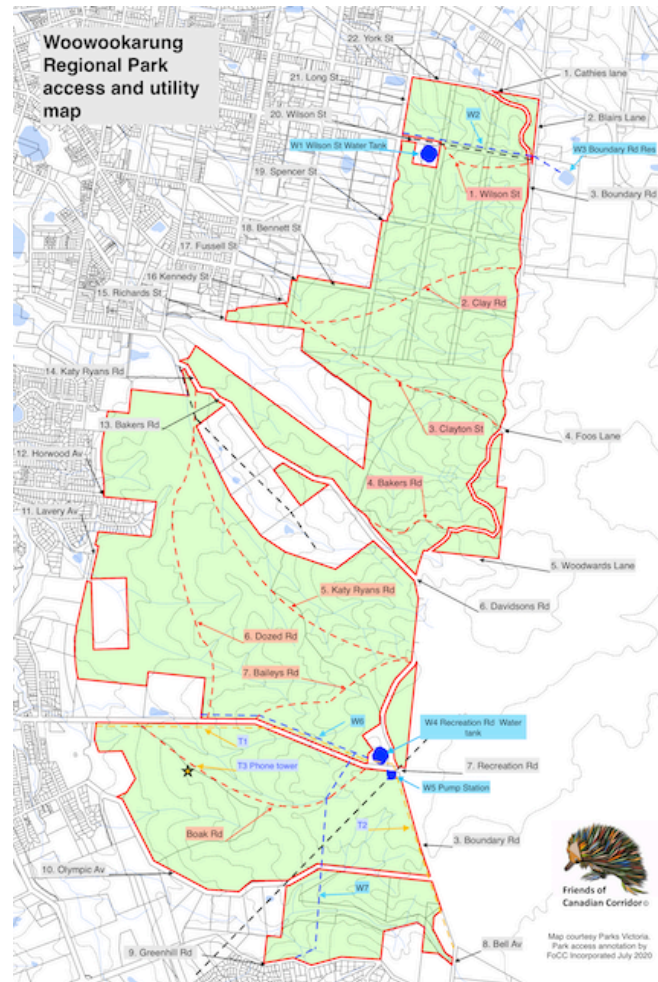
More details:

Gib Wettenhall - Secretary
 email: gib@vic.chariot.net.au
 mobile: 0419 370 342
www.biorichplantations.com

13. Park connections

Recently a friend mentioned how easy hoons, rubbish dumpers and other vandals are able to get into the Park.

The FoCC has made a map and index of the Council and Parks Victoria managed roads, electricity, water tanks and pipes and telecommunication utility infrastructure. A PDF is available on the FoCC website.



Ballarat and Moorabool Council managed roads	
1	Cathies Street
2	Blairs Lane
3	Boundary Rd
4	Foos Lane (Shire of Moorabool)
5	Woodwards Lane (Shire of Moorabool)
6	Davisons Rd
7	Recreation Rd
8	Bell Avenue
9	Greenhill Rd
10	Olympic Avenue
11	Lavery Avenue
12	Horwood Avenue
13	Bakers Rd
14	Katy Ryans Rd
15	Richards St
16	Kennedy St
17	Fussell St
18	Bennett St
19	Spencer St
20	Wilson St
21	Long St
22	York St
Parks Victoria managed roads	
P1	Wilson St
P2	Clay Rd
P3	Clayton St
P4	Bakers Rd

P5	Katy Ryans Rd
P6	Baileys Rd
P7	Dozed Rd
P8	Boak Rd
Electricity supply power lines and easements -----	
E1	Wilson St power line and easement
E2	Bakers Rd power line and easement
E3	Recreation Rd to Olympic Avenue power line and easement
Central Highlands managed infrastructure -----	
W1	Wilson St Water Tank
W2	Wilson St pipeline easement
W3	Boundary Rd water tank
W4	Recreation Road water tank (North side)
W5	Recreation Rd Pump station (South side)
W6	Recreation Rd to Mt Clear pipe line easement
W7	The Recreation Rd water tank to Mt Helen pipeline easement
Telecommunications infrastructure	
T1	Telstra tower

14. Exploration

Spotted in the Courier recently an exploration application. People just keep looking for gold around our area. Article courtesy of Bernadette



15. Specimen Gully friends works

Kath has been leading a group of local friends looking after the Specimen Gully Area. On Tuesday July 22nd "The council had sprayed so we had less of that to do. We put in 20 grasses, 20 Hop Goodenias and 20 Hoop Wattles. Finished McKenzies Reserve now. For more information please contact Kath kathmchapman@outlook.com or phone 0431 599 250 Note: Due to Covid 19 these activities are on hold.

16. Cherry Ballart and white winged chough images wanted!

Parks Victoria is seeking images of cherry ballart trees and white winged chough in Woowookarung Regional Park. Avid birders and photographers can send queries and/or images to woowookarung@parks.vic.gov.au

FoCC facebook

Rob at webmaster@focc.asn.au is now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page. www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/ Currently we have just over 530 564 friends following us on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

2020 calendar

Aug 7 th and 9 th	Tree planting
Aug 19 th	General meeting postponed
Oct 21 st	Annual meeting "Guest Speaker"
Nov 2 nd	Wildflower walk
Dec 4 th	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 642 651. 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 doctor's waiting rooms, work offices, friends and neighbours. We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people and all other First Nations people.

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