

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.



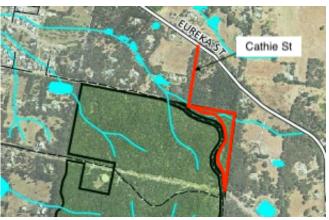
Bunny rail bridge across the "Unnamed Forest Creek" Image: Courtesy of Andrew.

2. Park Works

The City of Ballarat has resurfaced and graded the badly eroded section of Boundary Road between Foos 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 **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. July11th 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: <u>info@parks.vic.gov.au</u> Please note the offender's registration number if

applicable, location and details.

5. <u>Tree Planting on at August 7th and 9th</u>

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 <u>foccinfo@gmail.com</u> or text or call Jeff on **0408509591**. First in first to be a planter as they say! Stop Press! "masks required" 6. <u>Tree stake pull and tree guard collection</u> 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 **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.

7.



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. <u>Koalas Spotted</u> 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. <u>Colours of the Park</u>. 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. <u>Bringing the drop slab hut into the 21st century</u> 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-slabhut?pc=em_dn_contacts_r&rcid=r01-159374486742f82953cd5f684e51&member=4940756

• For more about the modern slab hut project, check out the page on – www.biorichplantations.com/21chut

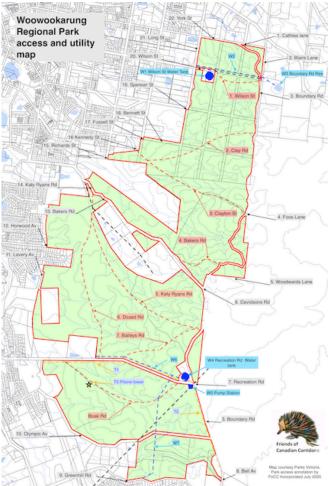
• Lachlan's website is – www.lpwoodwork.com More details:

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	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

5	Notices					
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	6. Other Statutory Responsements Solarit to other statutory requirements being saturded, an excitoration former of granted, entities the builder of the induct to require net to merce an excitor the relevant land, but does not excitize the holder to order the holder to					
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15. Specimen Gully friends works

Kath has been leading a group of local friends looking after the Specimen Gully Area.

On Tuesday July 2^{2nd} "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 <u>kathmchapman@outlook.com</u> or phone 0431 599 250 Note: Due to Covid 19 these activities are on hold.

16. <u>Cherry Ballart and white winged chough images</u> <u>wanted!</u>

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 9th	Tree planting	
Aug 19 th	General meeting postponed	
Oct 21st	Annual meeting "Guest Speaker"	
Nov 2nd	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.

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The update is generally published monthly. Friends wishing to add articles to the FoCC update may do so by emailing <u>foccinfo@gmail.com</u>

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.

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