



FoCC Incorporated August 2020 News Update

Issue Number 69



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1. Covid 19 effects

The Park has been closed to groups and organised events since the reintroduction of Stage 3 restriction into Ballarat. Fortunately, exercise is allowed and hundreds of Ballarat residents have been busy in the Park keeping healthy in body and mind.

The FoCC over the past three months has undertaken some snap shots of park use numbers. The most popular is dogs leading people (the dogs always lead), followed by walkers, runners, cyclists, photographers, horse riders and fossickers. Unfortunately rubbish dumpers, wood thieves and off-road motor bikes have also been observed too often.

A common comment is “how good is this” and “aren’t we lucky to have this in our back yard’.

The lookout is so busy, parking is at a premium at some times.

Brickbats to the rubbish dumpers at the lookout and bouquets to the wonderful unknown people who clean it up every few days.

2. City of Ballarat: Six southern little creeks to be added as an addendum to the Yarrowee River Master Plan

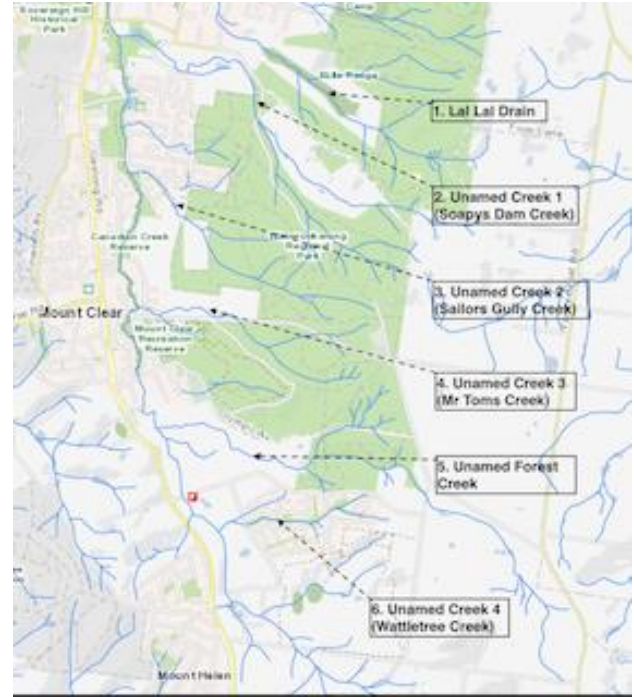
At the City of Ballarat August 12th 2020 online Council meeting the FoCC asked Council to add an addendum to the Yarrowee River Master Plan which was before the council. The Yarrowee River Master Plan is very well documented and thought through. FoCC president Bob Hartmann pointed out that the plan had missed adding detailed plans for the following creeks.:

- Lal Lal Drain
- Soapys Dam Creek *
- Sailors Gully creek, *
- Mr Toms Creek *
- Unmade Forest tributary *
- Wattle Tree Creek *

Note: All the creeks with an asterisk are unnamed.

The addition of the addendum’s “six southern little creeks” will provide a planning template to guide creek restoration and future development.

The FoCC has also requested the City of Ballarat to officially “name” the creeks as part of the “Living Corridor Strategic Plan” so as to give the creeks greater legal protection.



The six southern little creeks. Map from FoCC “Six little southern creeks” submission to the COB. August 24th 2020.

3. 55 Recreation Road moves ahead

The FoCC’s advocacy for a “Bunny trail” for 55 Recreation Rd land at Mt Clear has moved further forward. The welcome news is that the City of Ballarat is working with the State Government’s Victoria Schools Building Authority to transfer the land from the Government to the Council. Many thanks to Mayor Cr Taylor, Cr Hudson and Cr Rinaldi for their assistance and support

4. Woookarung Regional Park Bird Count and the Great Australian Backyard Bird Count

Birds in Woookarung: The FoCC committee is working on a plan to use Citizen Science to conduct bird counts in Woookarung Regional Park in conjunction with the Birds Australia “Great Backyard Bird Count”.

Hopefully friends will be able to count birds at different Park locations and gather an understanding of the Parks bird diversity and numbers. More to come as the plans are formalised.

Birdlife Australia runs the annual “Great Australian Backyard Bird Count” which will be held on October 19th to 25th this year. The count encourages people to count the birds in their backyard at a particular time. For more information:

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

5. Hut remains found

The Park has very few built remains from the Goldfields era. The Cremorne Rifle Range still has firing points and butts. There are extensive water races through the Park, several goldfields dams, alluvial diggings, mineshafts and old roads remaining. The site of the old Greenhill School north of Greenhill Rd is still evident. There is the quarry masters house (circa 1865) located outside the Park near the Gorge. The remains of a simple hut were recently found on the north side of Sinclair Hill between Richards St and Clayton St east. The base of the mudstone chimney, tin roof and walls are still evident. The hut existed in 1934 according to the 1934 Aerial Survey images.



Remnants of the hut. Image 26th August 2020

6. Snow in the Park



Snow on Boundary Rd 4th August 2020. Image courtesy Alex.

7. Tree planting

This year FoCC planned for the planting of 500 trees in the Koala corridor east of Dozed Track. Covid 19 has stopped the possibility of this community planting. Contractors will now plant the trees in the next week or so. Once Covid 19 restrictions are eased enough to allow working bees back into the Park, the FoCC is planning to organise a clean-up around the planted area. A pine tree, weed and rubbish removal day is planned. More details when known.

8. Secluded lakeside R and R setting

Enterprising folk have created a lakeside rest and recreation area on a lake (dam) on the west side of Dozed track. This looks like just the place to get away from it all. Nice soft recliner chairs, sun shade and a secluded lake.



Image 7th August 2020

9. Powerful Owl south of Mt Buninyong

Spotted in a back yard with a possum for breakfast. A magnificent bird.



Powerful Owl 24th August 2020. Image courtesy Andrew

10. Cascades flowing strongly

With the good rainfall over the previous days the cascades in the Gorge were flowing strongly on August 23rd.



The cascades on the Unamed Forest Tributary in the Gorge 23rd August 2020. Image courtesy Peter.

11. Grasstree thieves

Even grasstree thieves have been active recently



Image 3rd August 2020

12. Koalas spotted

Koalas this month have been spotted at Mt Buninyong, the Gorge, Union Jack Reserve, Mt Helen and a sad finding at Boundary Road.



Koala on the north side of the Gorge. Image courtesy Alex
13 August 2020



A hard to see little Koala on Blackberry Lane. Mt Buninyong
Image courtesy Cheryl. 23 August



Union Jack Reserve 16 August 2020 Image courtesy Jolyon.
And another



Koala Woodlands Drive Mt Helen. 27th August 2020. Image
courtesy of Tracie

Vale

What none of us want to see. This little Koala was found on Sunday August 16th 2020 by a friend.

A wonderful ranger from DELWP wildlife division came to assistance and the Koala is now in cold storage waiting for the COVID regulations to change, to then allow the Koala to be autopsied. Parks and FoCC want to know why the death occurred.



Cnr Boundary Rd and Foss Lane August 16th 2020

13. Manna gums and Boxes

Just to the southeast side of the Lookout is a very special part of the Park. It contains a very healthy stand of grass trees. On the southern boundary there are some large manna gums and stringy bark trees. These trees are located outside the Park on a unused section of Woodward's Lane.

There are also a number of boxes located in that area. Does anyone know the story of the boxes?



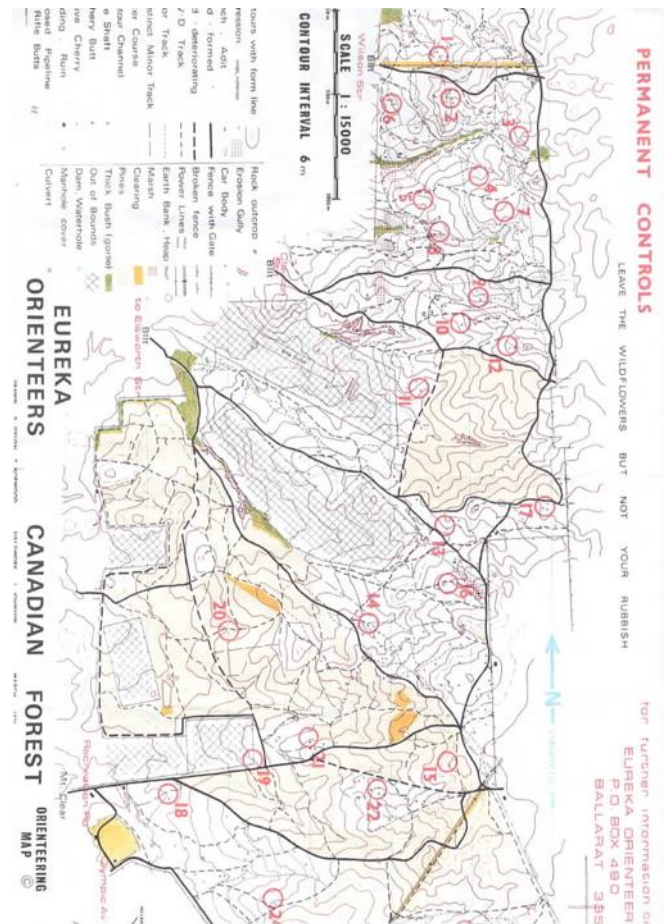
Box. Image August 20 2020

14. Orienteers markers circa 1976

In 1976 the Eureka Orienteers established an orienteering training course in the then Canadian Forest. The course consisted on 24 round concrete marker pads with embedded letters and numbers located throughout the forest as permanent controls.

Each number was preceded by a letter which when all were collected made up words.

Some of the markers still exist as Blake from Eureka Orienteers and others have discovered.



R3



A6

Images R3 A6 and O23 courtesy of Blake.



M12



U14



H16



Y19

O23

Anyone interested in tracking down the markers should email focinfo@gmail.com for a copy of the original instructions.

15. Firewood thieves, rubbish dumpers, and vandals

Firewood thieves have been very active with several new sites being discovered over the past weeks. Has anything changed?

wood-cartern have taken to nocturnal habits, cutting the trees down during the night and stacking them on the road, where heaps of young saplings, cut into firewood lengths, are constantly met with. These are carted into Ballarat during the day, without any attempt at concealment, for once the timber has been placed on the road the Crown Lands bailiffs are powerless to interfere in

The Star Newspaper - Sat 9th September 1882

Every Wednesday, Parks Victoria has a contractor picking up rubbish dumped in the Park. Anecdotally the amount of rubbish this year is greater and quite disappointing.



Dumped Fridge at Boundary Rd. Image: August 27th 2020

Rubbish dumpers, thieves and vandals_ The FoCC encourages Park friends to report track vandals, rubbish dumped and dumpers and wood thieves to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or email: info@parks.vic.gov.au

If an offender is spotted, please note vehicle registration details as vehicle identification is most helpful, plus location and details.

FoCC facebook

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

www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Currently we have just over ~~563~~ 597 friends following us on facebook and growing. Welcome to all new friends. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

2020 calendar

Early Sept	Contractors plant 500 trees in Koala corridor
Sept late	1) Small group park clean-up. 2) Small infill tree planting. Details as soon as Covid 19 Park work restrictions are eased.
Early October	1) FoCC Woovookarung Regional Park Bird Count details released. 2) Walk or cycle the "Bunny trail" try out! 3) Koala monitoring with AKF and Uni of Melbourne and Louise
Oct 19 th to 25 th	Bird Life Australia: Great Australian Backyard Bird Count
Oct 21 st	Annual meeting "Guest Speaker" Most likely to be a zoom meeting. Meeting notices out to members in mid-September
Nov 2 nd	Wildflower walk
November late	Lookout and surrounds guided walks
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 ~~651~~. 664. Welcome to all new friends.

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.

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