



# FoCC Incorporated

# Spikey News



Linking the community with Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor  
September 2020 Issue Number 70

## Spikey News features

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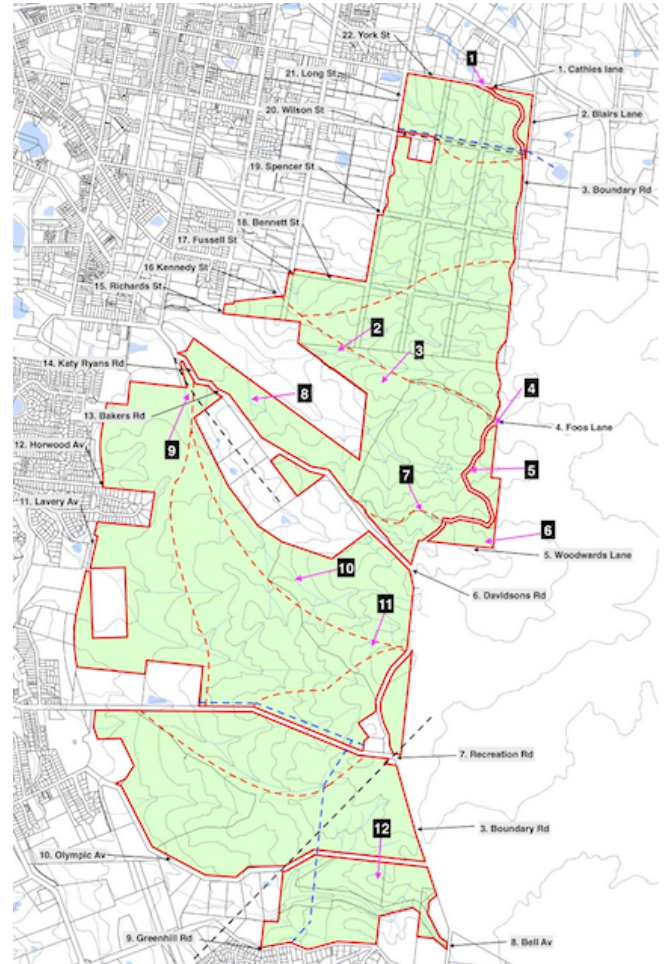
## 1. Woovookarung Regional Park Bird Count and the Great Australian Backyard Bird Count

**BirdLife Australia's Backyard Bird Count** is happening soon, **October 19-25<sup>th</sup>** and the FoCC is encouraging members to participate and support this activity. You can check out information about this research, education and conservation program <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/> The App is great to use to complete a 20 minute survey and it has an excellent Field Guide so you can more easily identify the birds you see.

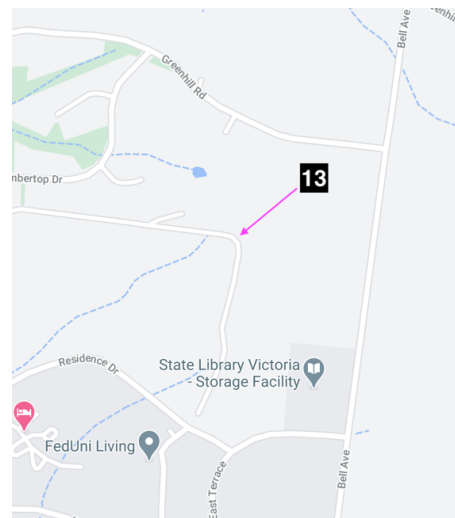
FoCC is also monitoring approximately 13 sites across Woovookarung Park (see map). We invite any keen birders to join in, and so during the week visit one or more of the sites and do the bird count. We would like to know about the sites monitored and general bird numbers and/or any new, unusual, surprising discoveries. We encourage you to email [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com) to let us know about your findings in the Park.

Meanwhile, you might like to check the list of Birds of Woovookarung and the Canadian Corridor, a work in progress by Joel and Rob <http://www.focc.asn.au/birds/>

## Map of Bird Count sites



12 sites in Woovookarung Regional Park



1 site in Federation University grounds

Site no	Bird count site location and details
1	Dam on corner of Long St and York St
2	Sawpit Gully Site is an old dam along a track beside a gully on south side of Clayton St.
3	Dam on south side of Clayton St 150 meters west of North Gate
4	Corner Foss Lane and Boundary Rd
5	Lal Lal Drain gully on Boundary Rd 400 metres south of site 4
6	The south east park corner on Woodward's Lane. Follow fence line south from Boundary Rd and private driveway new fence and bollards
7	The Lookout corner of Boundary Rd and Bakers Rd
8	Wet gully on proposed Dementia Trail. Access from Dementia Trail start on Katy Ryans Rd (many tree plantings) along track for 500m
9	Bush corner at junction of Katy Ryans Rd and Dozed Rd
10	Well vegetated creek north of eastern end of new fence, gate, bollards and tree plantings on Katy Ryans Rd. Walk along clay track through the plantings until water way is reached turn right (east) along gully for 100m into forest.
11	Bush corner Baileys Rd, Boundary Rd and Katy Ryans Rd
12	From corner of Olympic Av and Boundary Rd follow vehicle track southwest for 200m.
13	Fire trail on eastern edge of university precinct. Park on Residence Drive and walk north to corner of trail.

## 2. Park Works:

### Dementia Trail and Bag:Gup Trail (proposed name ) Cultural and Heritage contractor induction.

Works are due to start on the construction of the two trails. On September 14<sup>th</sup> an induction was held with local indigenous representatives.



All socially distanced. Image September 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Dementia trail tree planting

A Parks Victoria led tree planting team have planted many hundreds of trees on the outer boundaries of the Dementia Trail. The team also cleared a significant amount of dead pine trees from the area.

Extra plantings have been placed on a closed vehicle track along Bakers Rd and Katy Ryans Rd.

The trees were propagated by Ballarat Group Training students and cared for over the winter by wonderful volunteers.

ABC News has featured an online article of Ann and Edie the inspirators behind the trail.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-27/dementia-trail-australian-first-love-story/12697140>



Tree planting north side of trail. Image: 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020.

### Feral tree removal.

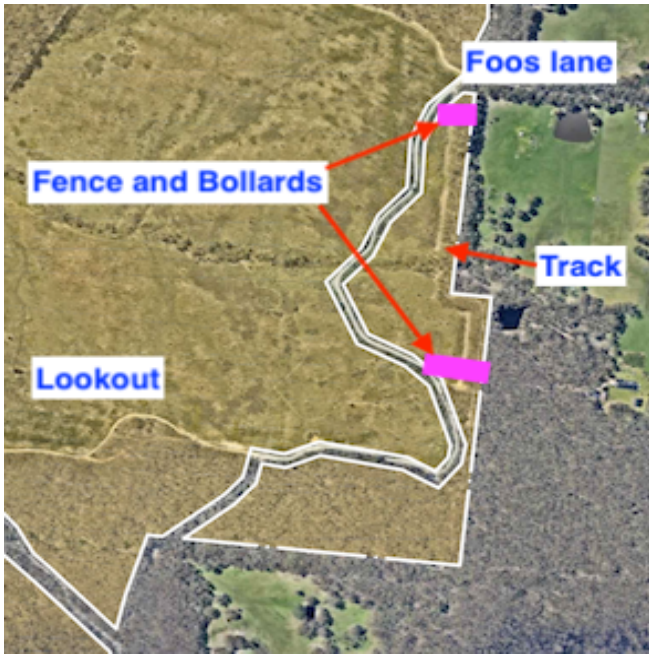
Parks Victoria work crews moved through the Park in early September removing feral trees including Pine trees, Sydney Wattle, Cootamundra Wattle and Irish Strawberry trees from many areas. This feral Sydney Wattle was cut and the stump treated



Image 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### New fence and bollards

Vehicle access off Boundary Rd to the 4WD trail down to Lal Lal Drain has been closed by Parks Victoria contractors. The former forestry track runs along the eastern boundary of the Park and is quite steep and is a popular walking and cycling path. The removal of vehicle access will allow the track to be kept in good order for recreation purposes only.



Location of new fence and bollards



Not the usual view of bush pea Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Bollards being installed 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

### 3. Woowookarung Winter Wonderland (WWW)

A cold southerly blast brought a significant snow band to Woowookarung on Friday.



Cnr of Katy Ryans Rd and Boundary Rd 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Nor the usual view of a grasstree. Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**4. Hut remnants name mystery resolved**

The hut on Sinclair Hill featured in last month’s news has created a lot of interest. Colin sent the images below of what was then known as **Quigleys Hut**. Apparently, Quigley died just before these images were taken.



Quigleys two huts circa mid 1960’s. Image courtesy Colin



Quigleys hut and fireplace circa mid 1960’s. Image courtesy Colin

**5. 55 Recreation Road update**

FoCC’s request to the City of Ballarat and the Victorian Schools Building Authority to transfer the land at 55 Recreation Rd to the Council to allow for the establishment of the ‘Bunny Trail’ is moving slowly forward. Our understanding is the land is currently being valued by the State Valuer General as part of the process. A new development is the idea of re-routing the Goldfields Track cycle track from the Mt Clear roundabout, east along Recreation Rd to 55 Rec Rd and exiting via the Bunny trail into the Park, then following tracks thru to Bailey Rd and connecting with Goldfields Walk Track at the Amphitheatre. At present the cycle trail goes south from Mt Clear roundabout and is a mess of traffic lights and crossings.

**6. Fire in the top block opposite the Lookout**

A fire occurred on Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> on the top block opposite the lookout. On the day there was a strong warm north wind blowing. Perhaps a salutary warning of a summer to come. The CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria attended the fire. A bull dozer was used to encircle the fire and then contain it. Many thanks to the wonderful Emergency Services folk for their work.



Forest Fire Managements dozer and CFA trucks at the corner of Fools Lane and Boundary Rd Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



Fire site Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>

**7. Telstra Tower upgraded to 5G**

On September 1<sup>st</sup> Telstra upgraded the mobile tower in Boak Rd to 5G. Like something out of the ‘War of the Worlds’ a crane hovers above the tower.



Image: September 1 2020

**8. Gariwerd indigenous calendar**

The Bureau of Meteorology hosts an indigenous weather knowledge site. Unfortunately, there is not a chapter for the Wadawurrung people but there is a nearby Gariwerd

indigenous calendar. Worth looking at to gather an understanding of the six seasons.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/gariwerd.shtml>

**9. Koalas sightings and spotted**

FoCCs Citizen Science Koala sightings program is ongoing. Mating season is beginning and Koalas will, be out about. If a Koala is spotted please photograph if possible and send to [focinfo@gmail.com](mailto:focinfo@gmail.com) or FoCC facebook with details. Every Koala sighting is valuable.

This month a Koalas was spotted visiting ESTA at Mt Helen.



Koala - ESTA, Mt Helen, Image courtesy Ebony: Sep 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

**10. FoCC tree planting completed**

FoCC was unable to host a community-based tree planting this year due to Covid 19 restrictions. The friends did hold a tree guard and stake pick in July where 500 tree guards and 1500 stakes were collected from the previous year’s plantings and prepared for recycling. However, for this year the trees in tube stock form had been grown by the wonderful folk at the Cities tree nursery and were waiting for a home. To solve the problem the FoCC committee contracted Pat from Gurks Gardening to plant the 500 trees in the Corridor on the east side of Dozed Rd. The trees are now in place and nature has provided very timely rains to provide a great start. The proposed pop up wildflower walk in late October will visit the trees a part of the circuit.



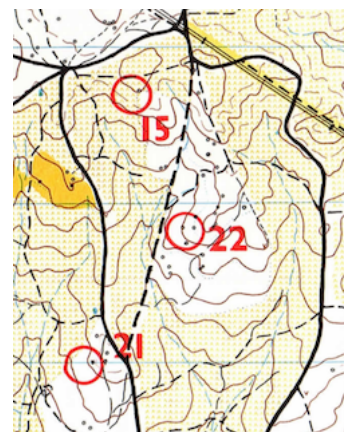
Tree planting area with Parks Victoria provided ring lock fence signage and protection. Image 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**11. Another heritage orienteering marker found**

The search for old heritage markers has created some fun and is a reminder of navigation ideas from a pre-GPS world where a phone needed an extension cord.



Marker number 22 0 found 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020



Location 22 in the triangular “Bermuda triangle”. Note map was made in 1976 and Recreation Rd was just a track then.

**12. Small group park clean-up proposed for Oct 11th**

With the relaxing of Covid 19 restrictions FoCC is planning a rubbish clean-up and pine tree seedling pull on the W block just south of Katy Ryans Rd. The clean-up is waiting upon approval from Parks Vic and will be preparation for the anticipated pop up Wildflower Walk which is scheduled now for the week of October 25 to October 31<sup>st</sup>.



Plucked pine trees from the area near the recent tree planting. 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**13. Wildflower Pop Up Walk.**

FoCC in partnership with the Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat (FNCB) has run a pop-up wildflower walk for several years now.

The 2020 walk is planned to happen on October 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> without the big formal group walk at the start with FNCB's knowledgeable guides. This year the trail will be set up and people will be able to attend in small numbers and with plenty of room for social distancing to do the walk safely. The expected site will be off Katy Ryans Road. More details as soon as possible.



The pop up wildflower walk 2019. Will be much quieter this year.

**PS** Bush Pea is now out in abundance in the Park. The forest floor has that wonderful bacon and egg colouring all through it.

**14. 846 Eureka St objection**

FoCC is an objector to a development at 846 Eureka St. The site features a degraded but open creek and some Koala habitat.

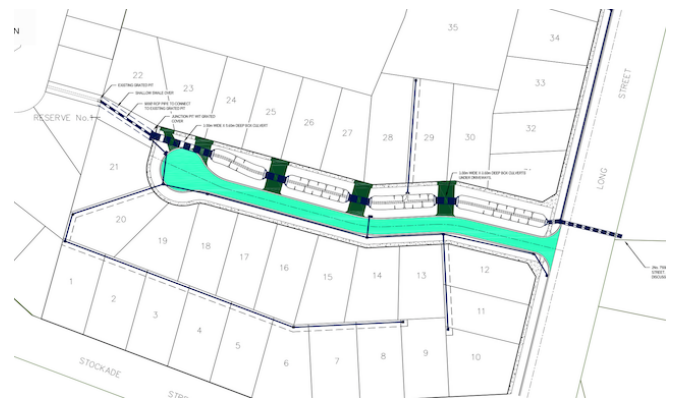
At first the usual developer's application was to pipe the creek, clear the trees and put as many saleable blocks on it as possible.

Very good work by the Cities statutory planner with the floodplain managers at the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), coupled with a more enlightened drainage consultant has produced a plan which is almost there. Note: Works on creeks must have a permit from the CCMA.

The creek is to remain open and the Koala habitat is to be placed into a reserve on the east side.

FoCC is waiting on a landscape plan for the creek, revisions of the culvert and creek design across Long St and some final flood calculations before being able to accept the plan. A small group of local residents are also involved in this objection.

The outcome we hope to see is an open creek, landscaped and a feature of the estate.



The creek plan courtesy of COB statutory planning website. 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Stop Press:** An amended much improved creek, road crossing, reserve and landscape plan has been just received. More to come.

**15. 4WD damage**

Wet areas of the Park seem to be a magnet to unthinking 4WD's. The wet area west of the intersection of Dozed Rd and Katy Ryans Rd has seen a number of bogged 4WD this winter. The extraction of the vehicles creates a bigger mess on the land.



4WD damage. Image 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

This particular wet spot is interesting because it is fed by several small springs in the low rise to the south of it. The puddle in the image is below is one of the springs start points.



A spring origin point. Image: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**16. Rubbish dumpers, firewood thieves and vandals**

Rubbish dumpers continue their furtive dumping in the Park.



Rabbit hutch dumped off Long St. Image courtesy of Kellie 20 September 2020.

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.

**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](mailto: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 and webpage**

Joel at is now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/)

Rob is overseeing the webpage [webmaster@focc.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@focc.asn.au)

Currently we have just over 597 627 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**

October 11th	10 am Small group park clean-up.
October start	Anticipated Koala monitoring with AKF and Uni of Melbourne and Louise
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bird Life Australia: Great Australian Backyard Bird Count
Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Zoom Annual meeting: Meeting notices out to members late September
October 25 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	Pop up wildflower walk. No more than 10 at a time
November	Proposed Ride the Bunny trail
	Lookout and surrounds guided walks
Dec 4th	Christmas at the Lookout. May be by Zoom!

The FoCC Spikey News is published on behalf of the Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated, Registered No A0097535B.

The purpose of “Spikey News” is to link the community to Woowookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor.

Circulation this issue is 669 674. 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](mailto: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.

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