



FoCC Incorporated February 2020 News Update

Issue Number 63

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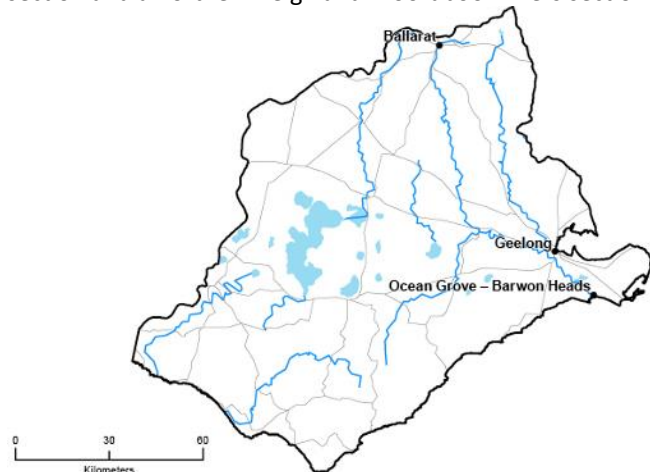
1. "Little Creeks do matter" FoCC meeting

The FoCC February general meeting featured our guest speaker Lachlan Gordon from the Friends of the Barwon.

"Friends of the Barwon is a catchment wide network of groups and individuals working to protect and restore the long-term health of the Barwon River and its tributaries through building partnerships, empowering communities, engaging with government and providing strong and effective advocacy. The vision is for a healthy, flowing, life-sustaining Barwon River system which is valued by all the community."

Lachlan spoke about issues across the Barwon River that lead to the Forming of the Friends of the Barwon. These issues run all the way to Ballarat because the Yarrowee river is a tributary to the Barwon River. The Moorabool, Leigh and Yarrowee River as well as Canadian Creek all from part of the Barwon Catchment.

The Barwon Catchment is very large and has an Otway section and a northern Leigh and Moorabool Rivers section.



According to locals the actual longest waterway in the Barwon system is the Yarrowee River and Fellmongers Creek above Gong Gong Reservoir followed by the Canadian Creek and the Unnamed Forest Tributary which rises behind Green Hill.

"Little creeks do matter, the eleven creeks of Canadian" was the focus of the second presentation. Eleven creeks run from the top of the Canadian Ridge on the East side of Ballarat into the Yarrowee River. Every creek is degraded in some way from the goldfield's activities. In more recent times developers have been able to pipe creeks thus destroying the creeks ecology and the living corridors which run along creeks.



A living very bare Grasree Creek in flood 2011. Restoration was still possible then however the result now is a mess as shown below.



Grasree Creek Nov 2019. How could this creek be restored now!

The FoCC “little creeks do matter the eleven creeks of Canadian” report has been sent to the State Government’s Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Barwon and to the City of Ballarat Living Corridors planning committee. Both committees are currently studying the issues in the Canadian Creek and beyond with a view to future planning and rule changes.

FoCC believes that significant changes to State and Ballarat Planning Scheme rules must happen so as to stop the ruining of creeks such as Grasstree Creek.

The MAC ‘Little creeks do matter the eleven creeks of Canadian’ report is on the FoCC website.

2. Buninyong 2020 Smart Living and Building Expo

A large crowd turned out to the Expo at Royal Park Buninyong on Sunday Feb 23rd.

The FoCC stall was popular with many new friends added to the mail list.

Thanks to Jo, Rob, Bob, Kent, Jeff, Carolyn and Brad for assistance during the day.



Bob with interested locals



The “look of the future” electric car show First comes the innovators then mainstream follows. Which electric car is in the top ten car sales in NSW ? Yep Tesla!

3. Asbestos dump

Asbestos cement sheet siding from a house repair were dumped on Clay Road. If any dumping’s are observed or found within the Park please call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 For rubbish found on York St, Wilson St, Boundary Road,

Recreation Road and Olympic Avenue please call the City of Ballarat on 5320 5500



Parks cleaned this mess up very quickly. Well done!

4. Dementia Sensory trail and Pick My Project trail cultural heritage study completed

The cultural heritage assessment of the Dementia Sensory trail and Pick My Project trail and the 10000-step trail was completed recently. The process involved a thorough examination of the land and sample excavations along the trail.

Completion of these works is another step along the way of the trail’s construction.

Tree safety works was undertaken along the Dementia Trail prior to Christmas also. This involved the identification of unsafe trees and removal where needed.

5. Illegal track closed

An illegally constructed track near Clay Rd has been closed by Parks Victoria.



Image: February 16th 2020

6. Vale old trees

Three very old and fragile messmate or stringy bark trees were removed in Elsworth St in mid-February by the City of Ballarat.

The trees were adjacent to Powercor power lines and indiscriminate trimming over the years lead to the trees being lopsided. Strong winds in January caused large branches to come down. Unfortunately, the trees were beyond salvation. Vale!



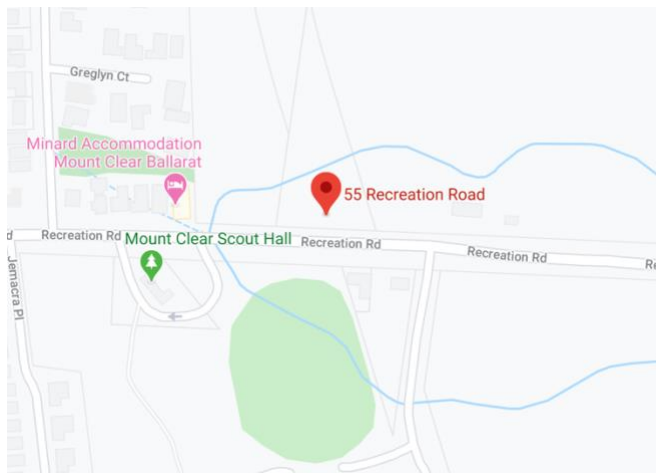
Image" Courtesy of Google before the wind damage.

7. Big Clean Up Australia Day at the Bunny trail

FoCC hosted Clean Up Australia day at the Bunny trail and Recreation Road Mt Clear on Sunday March 1st.

Thirty volunteers met adjacent to the Mt Clear Scout Hall between 10 am to 12 noon.

Most volunteers were also shown the path of the proposed trail along the old Bunny Train line connecting Mt Clear with the Park trail head.



Sorters of rubbish: L to R Jo, Bernadette, John, Kent, Michaela Settle MP and Peter. March 1st 2020



Joel and Bob at the end with 20 bags of rubbish and 10 bags of recyclables plus some extras. Thanks to the City of Ballarat for the pick-up service. March 1st 2020

8. Koala Sightings

If you see a Koala please record time, tree species and age, place and hopefully an image. Send to focinfo@gmail.com or FoCC facebook.



Monday Feb 17th Mt Buninyong: Image courtesy of Gary



Dec 2019 Eureka St visitor Image courtesy of Blake

to be paved with light covered stone so as animals crossing at night may be more easily seen have been put forward.



Vale Koala.

10. Square tailed kite in Mt Clear



Feb 24th 2020 Simson St B'Yong: Image courtesy of Liz.



VISITOR: A square-tailed kite at Mount Clear earlier this month. **Picture:** Rob Loveband

9. Vale Koala mum and joey

A Koala mum and Joey were killed on the Midland Highway near Nash's Road intersection. Local residents discovered the grisly find early on February 18th.

FoCC has been working with Rural Roads Victoria (RRV) on measures to highlight the wildlife crossing between Mt Buninyong and the forests to the south of the highway. Measures such as overhead cable walkways, wildlife signage, fencing on cuttings and a request for the highway

Square-tailed Kite pays visit to Mount Clear: The Courier Friday Feb 21. Image Ro

11. Midlands Highway update

Community Reps including FoCC met with Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) on Wednesday February 26th regarding the upgrade of the Midlands Highway south east of Buninyong. Works on the Clarendon end of the highway will start within days, whilst the Scotsburn to Buninyong section will not be settled for a few more months.

FoCC's original submission in August 2019 asked for

- Wildlife signs,
- Light covered topping over the mountain,
- Offset planting adjacent to the corridor such as Yendon #2 Rd,
- Overhead animal traverses,
- Night time speed restrictions
- And if possible, underpasses plus fencing along the top of batters (upslopes from the road).

RRV are planning to undertake all the above except for the night time speed restriction and the animal underpass. The RRV have minimised the number of trees to be removed and although not required, have agreed to the offset plantings adjacent to the road in the wildlife corridor.

12. Grass trees

Grasstrees are icons of the Park. The larger and most prevalent grasstrees are *Xanthorrhoea Australis*. There are also *Xanthorrhoea Minor* grass trees in the park. The known locations are

1. At the entrance area to the Dementia sensory Trail,
2. In the middle of the Rifle Range,
3. On the western side of Sawpit Gully
4. And a clump below on the south side of Clay Rd.

The clump below were in fine flowering form just after New Year and the fuel reduction burn of last February. *Xanthorrhoea Minors* do not form a trunk under the fronds and the stem is quite thin (10 – 15mm).



The biggest threat to grass trees in the Park is from Phytophthora which is a fungus and it spread by soil transfer from an infected area to a clean area.

Motor vehicles, cycles and walkers are all capable of transferring Phytophthora. It also travels through wet areas. An infection on top of a slope will slowly make its way down killing grasstrees, shrubs and trees over time. Phytophthora is also called cinnamon fungus or die back. The best way to avoid spreading Phytophthora is to stay on trails particularly in grasstrees areas.

Avoid dead or dying grasstree areas such as below:

13. Mountain Bike Trail Head

The Mountain Bike Trail Head at Mt Clear was constructed by Parks Victoria in conjunction with the Ballarat Mountain Bike Club. Yet to come is a large information board. Below is the wheel cleaning station to reduce the transmission of Phytophthora via infected dirt on bicycle wheels. Just wheel it through.



Bicycle wheel cleaning station Feb 27th 2020



Bicycle hanging rack Feb 27th 2020



Track marker on the "Crit" track Feb 27th 2020

14. Wowookarung's busy living classroom facility

Melbourne University students listening at the lookout to Bob Hartmann. February 27th 2020.



On February 16, he gave Conservation Land Management students from Federation University a guided tour highlighting land rehabilitation and land degradation issues within the park.

15. Gong to a Friend

Friend of Canadian Corridor, Peter Forster OAM from Anglesea has been honoured for services to conservation and the environment with a Medal of the Order of Australia.



Peter is a regular visitor to the park and has been involved in the current Barwon River review including Canadian Creek.

FoCC facebook

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

www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Currently we have just over ~~423~~ 444 friends following us on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

2020 draft calendar

Mar 1 st	Clean up Australia Day 55 Recreation Road.
April 5 th	Catching the Bunny: A walk along the Bunny trail
Apr 15 th	General meeting "Park Geology"
May 26 th	Mining Heritage Walk
June 17 th	Forum: Birds with "Sean Dooley"
Aug 2nd or 9th	Tree planting "Old motor cycle track"
Aug 19 th	General meeting TBA.
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 ~~560~~ 612

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



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Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated

Registered number A0097535



Membership Application 2020

Individual membership of the FoCC runs from January 1st to December 31st each year at a cost of \$20 per year Community groups may be represented by individual members.

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Name of Group represented: (if applicable)	
Address first line:	
Address second line:	
Town/City:	
State:	Post Code:
Home Phone:	
Mobile phone:	
Email address:	
I agree to the rules of association and abide by the FoCC committee of Management decisions	
Applicants signature:	
Date:	
Applications may be sent by email to focinfo@gmail.com or by mail to the Treasurer (address below)	

<p>Payment may be made by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bank transfer to details: BSB 06 3502 Account No 10955630. Note: Please add your name to the bank transfer and email focinfo@gmail.com a copy of this application form or your name and the date of the transaction. Payment to the Treasurer at a FoCC meeting Cheques to made out to "FoCC Incorporated" and addressed to: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">FoCC Treasurer PO Box 83, Mt Clear Vic, 3350.</p>
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<p>Date Received:</p> <p>\$</p> <p>Receipt No</p>
