



FoCC Incorporated April 2020 News Update

Issue Number 65



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1. The Park is busy.

The effects of the Covid 19 stay at home, social distancing and the need for exercise has seen a large increase in the number of people visiting the Park, walking, riding and with dogs on leads according to regular park users.

Unfortunately rubbish dumpers have not stayed at home. If you see a dumper in the Park, note the registration number and call Parks Vic 13 1963. Rubbish dumping along Bakers Road, Boundary Road, Recreation Road, Wilson St and Olympic Avenue are the responsibility of the City of Ballarat. Call (03) 5320 5500



Image: Dumped lounge suite off Clay Rd

2. FoCC's activities in light of Covid 19 Virus

Dear members and friends,

The FoCC calendar of events for 2020 was changed to take into account the Covid 19 pandemic with some events cancelled. Every event or project is subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

The FoCC committee has continued to work hard, with the following Current events, activities, partnerships, advocacy, projects and membership in which the FoCC is involved are:

FoCC coming events and activities

- Planning the planting of 500 trees in late July 2020 if Covid 19 relents.
- Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. FoCC has planned a training program to allow residents to enter flora and

fauna data into the atlas. Currently there is a paucity of information in the atlas for the corridor.

- Bird Counts. FoCC is planning to be involved in this year's Great Backyard Bird Count.

FoCC partnerships

- Working with the Field Naturalist Club Ballarat to host the Spring Pop Up Wildflower Walk.
- Supporting the Mt Clear College hands on student program and Federation University students upon request.
- Support for The Ballarat Observatory's "Dark Sky" initiative.
- Dementia Sensory Forest Trail. Support and participation in planning and events
- Fauna Identification Brochure. Current rewrite in partnership with Leigh Catchment Network
- Support for groups such as Friends of Harry Lavery Reserve and others.

FoCC advocacy

- Living Corridors – Submissions to the City of Ballarat Strategic Planning team. FoCC has two representatives on the advisory panel
- Midlands Highway Wildlife Corridor. FoCC has been a lead advocate for the identification of the Midland Highway wildlife crossing on the southern side of Mt Buninyong and for the provision of wildlife safety measures.
- FoCC is advocating for Government agencies, the City of Ballarat and others to find a resolution to the planning and contamination issues around the Canadian Rifle Range.
- Little creeks do matter. The FoCC has strongly advocated for improved creek protection from developers and a start to restoring little creeks natural values as well as adapting revegetation practices to the changing climate.
- Inappropriate development of Koala habitat has been strongly opposed by the FoCC. Current FoCC objections include Hill View Rd, Brown Hill and Elizabeth St, Buninyong.
- 55 Recreation Road. FoCC is leading the advocacy to retain the land in Government ownership and build the connecting trail from Mt Clear to the trail head in Woowookarung Regional Park.

FoCC Projects

- Lead applicant for Pick My Project trail works \$78008 grant. FoCC members are on the signage committee. On ground trail works yet to be started.
- Creation of the 13 km long "Catching the Bunny" walk/cycle trail will become a reality when the trail in 55 Recreation Rd is settled.
- Koala sightings. FoCC has completed the initial Citizen Science Koala count. Now the FoCC is supporting a University of Melbourne student to undertake a Koala monitoring study this year in partnership with the Australian Koala Foundation.

- Powerful Owls. FoCC is conducting a Citizen Science observation program of these amazing birds.
- Mining and other heritage sites. FoCC is continuing to identify mining heritage sites in and out of the Park including but not least:
 - Advocacy for the protection of the Mt Clear Horse Puddler ongoing.
 - Rediscovery of the Cremorne Rifle Range
 - Highlighting the extent of the remnant early alluvial diggings via the mining heritage walk.
 - Protection of heritage Bunny Railway remnants

FoCC participation in other organisations

- FoCC is a member of the Leigh Catchment Network.
- Regional Sustainability Alliance. FoCC has board membership and regular participation.
- Bunyung Landscape Alliance. FoCC is a founding organisation.
- FoCC involvement in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regional climate adaptation groups (RCAG).

News Updates, advocacy, planning and Koala counting are continuing as normal.

Bob Hartmann FoCC President

3. Koala Press

The Ballarat Courier ran a COB Koala implementation committee stories on April 20th.

New life for Ballarat koala plan

Jolyon Attwooll



NEW HOPE: The koala population in the region has been under increasing pressure in recent years. Picture: Lachlan Bence
Fresh efforts are being made to breathe life into the City of Ballarat's koala management plan, which had largely fallen off the radar in recent years.

A move to establish a committee to oversee the plan - which was approved by council back in 2006 - was discussed in town hall last month.

The plan was described as pioneering at the time of its introduction, but many observers believe Ballarat's koala numbers have continued to dwindle in recent years.

Bob Hartmann, the president of community group Friends of Canadian Corridor, updated councillors and council officers about a citizen science study of koala numbers in the area.

It seems more imperative that local councils should become more involved and be prepared to take a lead role in their conservation

Bob Hartmann, Friends of Canadian Corridor
"I can inform you that yes, [koalas] do still exist. It's about 15, which is still a very sad situation," he said at the March ordinary council meeting.

"Unfortunately.. we have had three deaths, including a mother and joey."

Mr Hartmann said that in the wake of the summer bushfires, which wiped out large numbers of wildlife, the pressure was on to preserve native Australian species such as the koala.

"It seems more imperative that local councils should become more involved and be prepared to take a lead role in their conservation," he said.

"I would like in the future for our grandchildren to be able to see these iconic animals around Ballarat."

He also reminded those present of one of the actions of the plan, which was to establish a committee to oversee the management of the koala plan. The committee, which would be chaired by a councillor, has never been formed.

Four councillors expressed an interest in being involved, including Crs Belinda Coates, Mark Harris, Des Hudson and Jim Rinaldi.

In response to Mr Hartmann's presentation, Angeliqe Lush, the City of Ballarat's director of development and planning, said she was "very aware and very sensitive" to the situation facing Australia's wildlife.

She cited the work of the new Living Corridors group, which has been set up to suggest measures that will protect wildlife ecosystems around Ballarat - and said a report from the group would be drafted later in the year.

"That's not to say that something shouldn't be happening now, so bearing that in mind... I expect you will see some movement coming very soon," she said.

Cr Hudson praised the Friends of Canadian Corridor group for "picking up the baton and reinvigorating the discussion around the protection of the koala protection overlay".

Cr Coates said it was "really heartening" to see work of the Living Corridors group starting, which she said would hopefully bring momentum to community campaigns to protect wildlife in the region.

The Courier understands formal steps are now being taken to establish a committee to oversee the management of the koala plan.

"I was actually overwhelmed by the favourable response from councillors - that most of them wanted to be actively involved in the process," Mr Hartmann said.

4. Gold era plaque and post

A brass plaque located on Geelong Rd just south of the Elsworth St and Geelong Rd roundabout states "about 5 chains due East was situated the Blacksmith's hole known as the Jewellers Shop 1858"

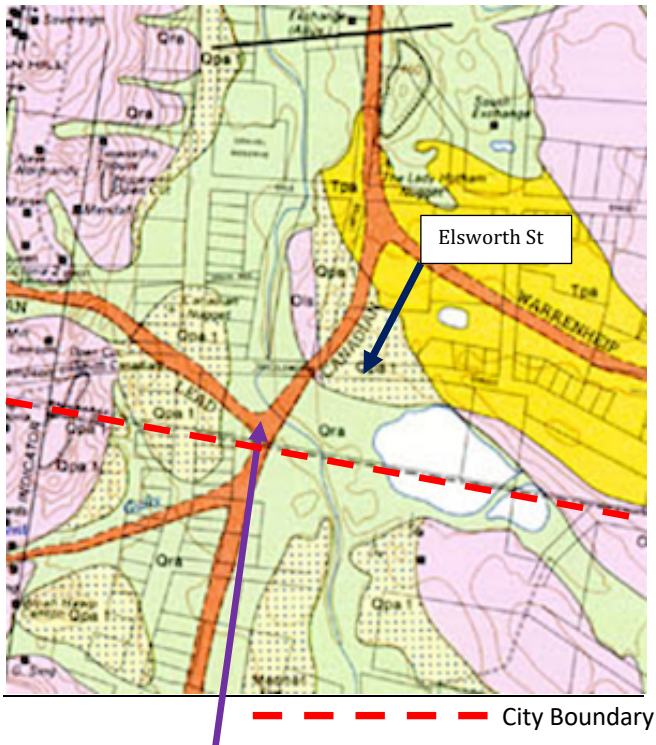


The plaque

According to Brough (1869) the claim at the junction of the Canadian and the Prince Regent Leads was known as the Blacksmith's Hole where the washdirt was very rich, and there was a great thickness of it. The other name given to the area was the Jewellers Shop because each miners claim was as rich as a jeweller's shop. The Prince Regent lead runs west under the old Prince Regent hotel from Canadian Gully lead (located under the creek at this point)

The plaque was installed many years ago when the traffic then was way out in the middle of the road. The irony today is that it is dangerous to read it safely, due to traffic in the south bound Geelong road lane. Check it out!

5. Sluicing application for the Jewellers shop on the Canadian Creek.



The Jewellers Shop area was looked at again in 1935 when this application was made to the City of Ballarat to sluice the creek from the old shire boundary to Elsworth St for about 100metres beside or over the Jewellers Shop.

413 Mair St.,
BALLARAT.
June 8th, 1935.

The Town Clerk
Town Hall
BALLARAT.

Dear Sir,

I hereby make application to your Council for permission to treat the deposit and silt in the Canadian Creek between the Council's Boundary and Elsworth Street.

The method of treatment to be adopted will be by sluice and tables. The sand and stones will be separated and will be then available for Council's use.

The creek will be improved as a water course, as the silt, sand and gravel (which now choke it and cause flooding) will be removed and neatly stacked on the low lying bank.

An early decision would be very helpful in assisting the immediate installation of plant, and the employment of men who are now unemployed.

Trusting that your Council will be able to grant the request in accordance with the above or similar conditions.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

P.P.
T. Jelbart

*Cl. can see numerous objects
but missing from
feels should be stacked
on W side of creek 4-25
clean of bank of same*



Image contributed

7. 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.

Recently a Koala visited a home in the Timbertop Estate. Video footage of the visit is on FoCC facebook.



Image courtesy of Tracey



Image courtesy Kevin Mt Helen April 28th

Another sighting was at Mt Buninyong at 10pm April 24th

6. Keeping the Park clean

Many friends walk in the Park and along the way keep the Park clean. The bottle collection below was one friend's collection during a short walk.

8. Park works

Parks Victoria contractors have constructed a fence along Katy Ryans Road in the centre of the Park. The fence is designed to keep motor vehicles out of the previous gorse affected land which is now clear and

associated tracks. Walkers cyclists and horses are unaffected. The vehicle track closure will close off an unauthorised access to a part of the Pick My Project trail. More information via facebook and next News Update

Parks Victoria eco Blade was active for several days in the Park cleaning up a huge amount of gorse and Broom in the Olympic Avenue Boundary Road area.



Image: Eco blade weed removal along Boundary Road

9. Big Things in the Corridor

The corridor is not only Ballarat’s best kept secret but it also is the location of some of the energy infrastructure of the future.

The Warrenheip big battery was constructed in 2018 and is one of two big batteries in Victoria currently operating. The South Australian Tesla big battery gets the media coverage but just like the Corridor, our own big battery is quietly hidden away on Coulsons Road Warrenheip. Big isn’t it!

More info at: <https://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/energy-generation/ballarat-battery-storage>



Image from Energy Australia website

10. And little things

The early wet weather has created ideal conditions for a great fungi season. Just take a stroll in the Park and be amazed at the great variety on show. Feel free to send images of good examples to FoCC Facebook and your friends. Another great aspect of Ballarat best kept secret.



Image: Courtesy of Peter

FoCC facebook

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

www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/

Currently we have just over 457 471 friends following us on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

2020 calendar

May 26th	Mining Heritage Walk Cancelled
June 17th	Forum: Birds with “Sean Dooley” Postponed
Aug 2nd or 9th	Tree planting “Old motor cycle track” Under review hopeful!
Aug 19th	General meeting
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. Circulation this issue is ~~626~~ 630

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

LOCAL NEWS

Plans all set to catch the Bunny

The Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FoCC) group is arguably one of the most effective community/ pressure/ lobbying groups in Ballarat. Over the past five years or so what has happened in the general Canadian forest area has been remarkable.

The FoCC monthly newsletter is always full of news, photographs and all sorts of information about the reserve area and about issues such as preservation of koala habitats.

Moves

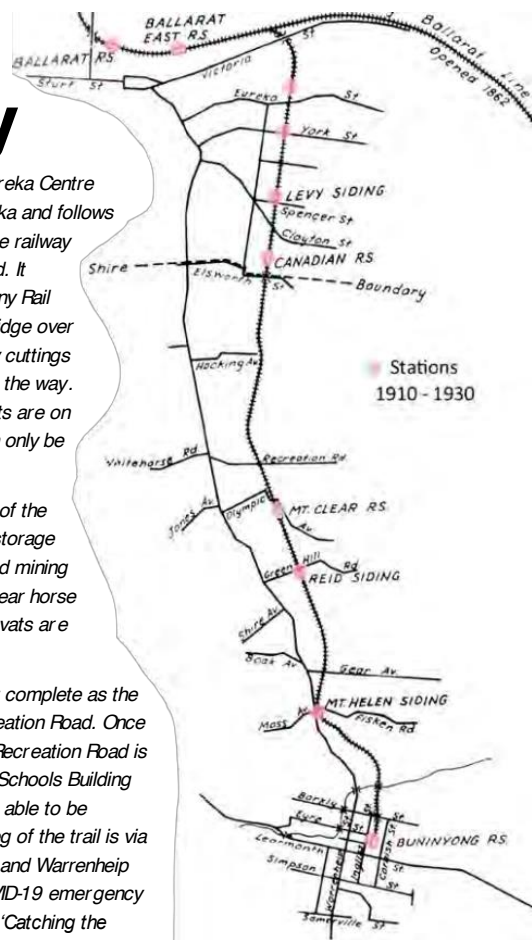
In a recent issue there was an interesting article about moves to complete a trail along the old railway line to Buninyong. The line opened in 1889 and was six miles and 50 chains (10.6 km) long. The article is reproduced below.

'The FoCC is scoping out a walking/ cycle trail that celebrates the Bunny rail and trail. Catching the Bunny was the way local people along the old Ballarat to Buninyong railway line affectionately called riding the train into town. The Bunny ran from 1891 to 1947 before being closed beyond Eureka.'

The trail starts at the Eureka Centre (MADE) complex at Eureka and follows as closely as possible the railway down to Recreation Road. It passes by many old Bunny Rail features including the bridge over Grasstree Creek, railway cuttings and embankments along the way. Some of the rail remnants are on private property and can only be viewed at a distance.

At Canadian Station one of the World War 2 inland fuel storage tanks is in place. Old gold mining relics including the Mt Clear horse puddler and the cyanide vats are along the trail.

At present the trail is not complete as the trail stops near 55 Recreation Road. Once the management of 55 Recreation Road is settled with the Victoria Schools Building Authority, the trail will be able to be completed. The return leg of the trail is via the Canadian Creek trail and Warrenheip Gully trail. When the COVID-19 emergency is over, FoCC will host a 'Catching the Bunny' by bike or foot outing.'



The number of stations fluctuated from six in 1890 to 10 during the 1920 to 1930 and five in 1947.

In 1917 the railway line was actually extended from the Buninyong station across the highway to Howards sawmill, located just up the hill from the Presbyterian Church. Pine logs were carried to the mill to be made into fruit boxes and then sent to Mildura.

Platforms

More details of the railway line to Buninyong can be found on the new signage erected just near the Men's Shed in Forest Street, Buninyong (pictured left). The shed actually has been built on the old railway platform which can be clearly seen on the eastern side.



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)	

Payment may be made by
1. 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.
2. Payment to the Treasurer at a FoCC meeting
3. Cheques to made out to "FoCC Incorporated" and addressed to:
FoCC Treasurer PO Box 83, Mt Clear Vic, 3350.

Date Received:
\$
Receipt No