



# FoCC Incorporated May 2020 News Update

## Issue Number 66



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#### 1. The Park is busy

Observations by friends is that the Park has never been busier. Walkers, joggers, cyclists, bird watchers and sight-seeing etc have been observed right across the Park.

#### 2. FoCC gains Federal Funding

FoCC has received \$4200 for wildlife recognition and Victorian Bio Atlas entry training.

King, Catherine (MP) Inbox - fo...fo@gmail.com Yesterday at 12:25 KC  
 RE: Volunteer Grants 2019-20  
 To: foccinfo@gmail.com

Dear Bob,

I would like to congratulate you on your organisation's success in receiving funding through the Volunteer Grants 2019-20 program.

The Volunteer Grants 2019-20 funding has been provided in recognition of the valuable role volunteers play in building more resilient and cohesive communities and supporting individual participation in community life.

Volunteers have a strong presence throughout our community, whether it be helping out with local sporting teams and land care groups, responding to natural disasters and emergencies, or helping local charities support some of our most disadvantaged people. The importance of volunteers and volunteering has never been more relevant than now as we work to meet the challenges presented by the coronavirus.

If you have any questions about your Volunteer Grant 2019-20, please contact the Department of Social Services Grants Hotline on free call 1800 020 283 or email [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au).

Once again, congratulations on your organisation's success under Volunteer Grants 2019-20 and I look forward to hearing more about the important ongoing work that is being done by your group.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King  
 Federal Member for Ballarat

#### 3. Saplings for Dementia Trail need foster care.



CARE: Dementia Alliance Ballarat's Anne Tudor takes a walk among seedlings she has helped foster for the trail. Picture: Lachlan Bence

Foster carers for 1000 native trees were sought recently by Parks Victoria personnel. The trees needed care due to the effects of Covid 19 with the tree propagator, Ballarat Group Training program being suspended.

Within days of the call to the Dementia friendly community and FoCC members the trees have all gained new host homes for the next five months.

The article was published in the Courier on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020.

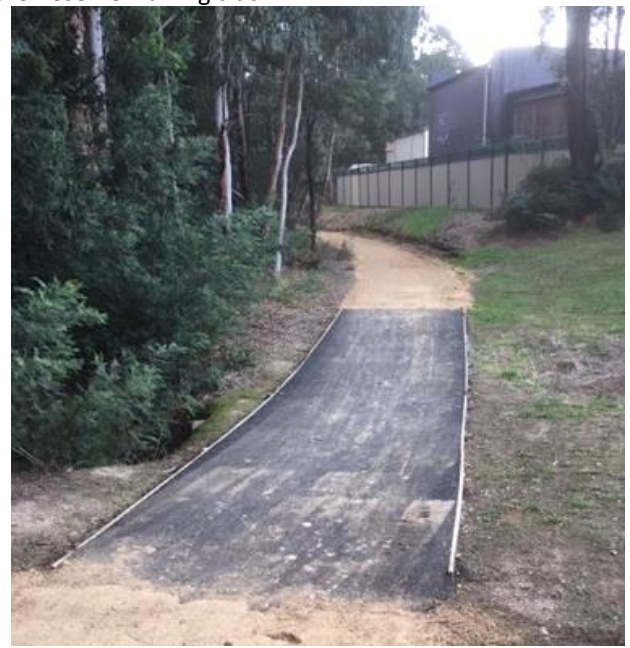
#### 4. Tree planting August 9<sup>th</sup> tentative

The FoCC is planning to plant 500 trees this year on August 9<sup>th</sup> in the area south of last year's plantings.

The planning is tentative at the moment. Hopefully a small group approach with staggered start times will be used to keep our friends safe and separated. More details when Covid 19 restrictions are eased enough to allow planting.

#### 5. Harry Lavery Reserve works

The Friends of Harry Lavery Reserve in Mt Clear have been busy keeping their park neat and tidy. Recently the City Council helped out with upgrading and surface topping of the Reserve walking track.



New sealed track in a known wet area.



South end of the track along the Canadian Creek

**6. Recreation Road Mt Clear footpath**

The City Council works team have completed footpath repairs right in front of the "Catching the Bunny" 55 Recreation Road land. Another part of the trail access completed.



Repaired footpath at 55 Recreation Road

**7. Hocking Avenue regrowth**

Last year Parks Victoria undertook the restoration and revegetation of degraded bare ground next to Hocking Avenue on the north side of Sailors Gully. A protective fence was put in and native grasses are now becoming well established.



**8. Park Works**

Parks Victoria have installed a fence along the north side of Katy Ryans Rd in the centre of the Park.



East end of fence and closed vehicle track. May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

The fence has been designed to allow animals to go under or over whilst excluding vehicles. Access is at either end of the fence. At the eastern end of the area bollards have been placed to control vehicle access.



The eastern end bollards being installed May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Another mine capped.**



Mine capping on Sinclair Hill April 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

**9. Sinclair Hill and Sinclair Hills Lead**

Recent searching for a mystery eucalyptus distillery turned up previously unknown information about Sinclair Hill and Sinclair Hills Lead.



Sinclair Hill from the Dementia Trail. Image May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020



Map of Rifle Range and Sinclair Hill 1936 Ballarat map.



Sinclair Hills Lead (Number 25) is shown on Brough's 1859 map. Sinclair Hill is mentioned in the Ballarat Star as being between Clayton Hill (east of Lake Esmond) and Sawpit Gully on Clayton St. Sinclair Hill is the high point on the northern boundary of the rifle range.

#### 10. Koala sightings

**Mt Helen:** This little fella was rescued on May 3<sup>rd</sup> after tree removal in a sub division at Mt Helen threatened the very trees it was living in. The Koala had arrived some months before with its mum and was now living by itself. It was rescued by a wildlife carer and taken to Anakie.



Whilst the well-being of the Koala is paramount, Ballarat has lost another precious Koala from our area. The FoCC

will be following up this story with the City of Ballarat as to how we can better look after and keep our Koalas in Ballarat.

**Yankee Flat Road Koala** Spotted at the southern end of Yankee Flat Road. First sighting FoCC has had along Yankee Flat Road.



Image: Courtesy Adrian May 13th

#### Two mountains trail

The trail was initiated some years ago by the Lal Lal and Upper Williamsons Creek land care groups. A lot of trees have been planted over the years and periodically landowners and groups extend the Koala friendly landscape a bit more. It is heartening to spot a Koala in the trail.

The trail has an aim:

*To create a landscape between Mts Warrenheip and Buninyong where koalas can migrate in relative safety and comfort, with the goodwill and support of the local communities*

**Historical Koala image** This koala image is displayed in the on line collection by the Ballarat Historical Society. The collection is a treasure trove of old Ballarat images Unfortunately, apart from this koala, there are no images in the collection of the Canadian Forest.

<http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com/collection/index.htm>



Image date and origins unknown. Courtesy Ballarat Historical Society library.

### 11. Feral trees

Recently spotted in the Park in three different locations is a Strawberry Tree, or Irish Strawberry Tree, *Arbutus unedo*. Locations have been passed to Parks Victoria for eradication. The Park does not need this weed in it. If you see this plant let Parks Victoria p: 13 1963 or e: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au) or FoCC know!



Strawberry tree near Bakers Rd: Images courtesy Bill



Leaves and seeds

### 12. Eucalyptus Distillery

There is some evidence the Canadian Forest hosted a eucalyptus distillery around the time of the second world war.

The Kirby brothers are reputed to have run the distillery. A certain D F Kirby sold at auction a distillery plant in 1924. At the same time a Mr Ellis was running a distillery in Buninyong and the locals were up in arms about the denuding of Union Jack area for leaves according to the Ballarat Star newspaper. Kirby Avenue in Canadian was named after the Kirby Brothers.

Distilleries require a good water supply which most likely would be along Canadian Creek or near any old large dams. There is a large boiler located on the corner of Foes Lane and Boundary Road however enquiries suggest this was used for rendering purposes at an associated piggery.

According to older scouts and other locals, immediately after the war the forest was denuded of trees. Maybe the denuding was caused by the regular cutting of coppiced trees?

Eucalyptus oil was used in large quantities in the war for explosives. The "Battery Dam" distillery south of Maryborough was built in 1944 and other distilleries of the same age are "Ginger Adams" at Dunach, north of Clunes and "Harrisons" at Enfield. New information most welcome?

### 13. Illegal tracks, rubbish dumpers and firewood thieves

A number of illegal tracks have been built in the Park over the past weeks mostly in sensitive grasstree areas.

In early May, Parks Victoria closed a trail on the north side of Clayton St. Within days vandals had pulled the closure signs down and uprooted the works resulting in further rework for Parks Victoria.

A media report at the time, claiming that steel stakes were being placed on trails, has been found by Parks Victoria and the Victoria Police to be wrong. Steel stakes were used by Parks Victoria in the lawful closing of an illegally constructed track. Vandals had destroyed the park works by pulling up the closure works thus exposing the steel stakes. Parks Victoria have since reinstated the closure works, tape and signs again.



Closed track for the third time May 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

One of the disturbing aspects of the illegal tracks has been the damage to grasstrees on a trail near Recreation Rd Mt Clear where 48 grasstrees were damaged by vandals.



Grasstree damage Recreation Rd. May 27<sup>th</sup> 2020



Bakers Rd illegal construction. Now removed by Parks Victoria.

**Rubbish dumpers** have been out in force with large amounts of green waste and other disgusting rubbish being dumped. Parks Victoria have a contract clean-up service very Wednesday in the Park.



Green waste on Boundary Road



Party rubbish off Wilson St Canadian

**Firewood** is being cut and stolen regularly from the Park. Fallen trees can be there one week and gone the next with just the tops left. FoCC encourages Park friends to report illegal track builders, rubbish dumpers and wood thieves to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or e: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au) Please note the offender's registration number if applicable, location and details.

#### 14. **Baileys Bone Mill**

Recently the "Grace" property in Recreation Rd was sold for \$500000, quite a bit below the asking price of \$600000.



Abattoir and bone mill site. Courtesy Ballarat Real Estate  
The property was once an abattoir and bone mill for a local butcher. It was known to locals as Baileys bone mill and is associated with Baileys Rd

#### **FoCC facebook**

Rob at [webmaster@focc.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@focc.asn.au) is now overseeing the FoCC Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/)

Currently we have just over ~~471~~ 516 friends following us on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

#### **2020 calendar**

June 17th	Forum: Birds with "Sean Dooley" <b>Postponed</b>
August 9th	Tree planting "Old motor cycle track" to be held under small group social distancing rules. More information soon
Aug 19th	General meeting. Tentative
Oct 21st	Annual meeting "Guest Speaker"
Nov 2nd	Wildflower walk
Dec 4th	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 ~~630~~ 634

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.

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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<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor/>

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# Friends of Canadian Corridor Incorporated



Registered number A0097535

## Membership Application 2020

Individual membership of the FoCC runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:focinfo@gmail.com">focinfo@gmail.com</a> 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](mailto: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**