



# FoCC Incorporated June 2020 News Update

## Issue Number 67

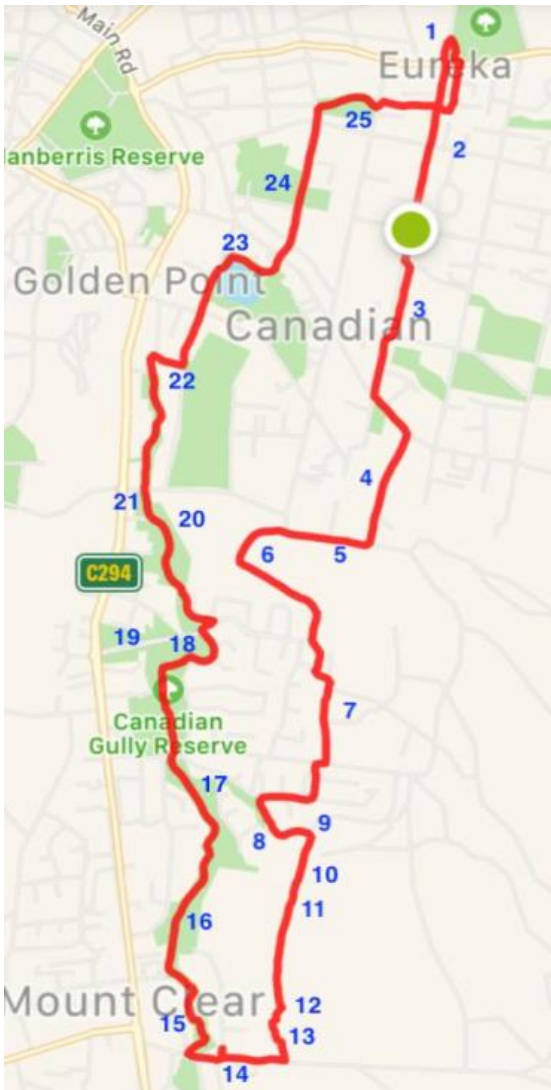


### News Update Features

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### 1. **Bunny trail**

The Bunny trail project is a 13-kilometre loop from MADE at Eureka along the old Bunny rail line to Mt Clear and return via the Canadian Creek trail.



The key to the project is the ex-Education Department land at 55 Recreation Rd Mt Clear (14). This 7000 square metre block of land provides the connection between the trail in Woowookarung Regional Park and Recreation Road. The land has the Old Bunny rail line embankment and bridge on it.

Originally the land was scheduled for auction last year and with the support of Michaela Settle MP the auction was withdrawn to allow the community to develop a proposal for the land.

FoCCs proposal is for the Bunny trail and associated trail works with the land in public hands.

View the proposal at [www.focc.asn.au](http://www.focc.asn.au)

FoCC has been talking with local Councillors about how the land could be transferred from the Education Department to the City.

FoCC has produced a “Catching the Bunny” trail guide which highlights 25 significant features along the trail.

FoCC wishes to acknowledge support from:

- BirdLife Australia Ballarat
- Bicycle User Group Ballarat
- Buninyong and District Community Association
- Eureka Orienteers
- Field Naturalist Club Ballarat
- Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club
- Federation University staff
- Heritage Watch Ballarat
- Mt Clear College
- Mt Clear Scouts

FoCC has made application to the Bendigo Bank community fund to enable the trail to be constructed on 55 Recreation Rd as per the plan below.



Planned works at 55 Recreation Road.

The land contains the old Bunny Railway embankment and possibly Ballarat’s sole remaining wooden railway bridge remnants?



The bunny rail bridge: Image November 2019

## 2. Pick My project nature trail progress

The Pick My Project Nature Trail began two years ago with significant community support for the trail idea. It was strongly supported by the public vote and the trail was awarded \$78000 for its construction.

The trail is planned to run between the Look Out on Boundary Rd and the Amphitheatre on Baileys Rd. It runs through some of the best grasstree areas in the Park.

Naming the trail is part of the establishment process and the FoCC committee has deliberated about appropriate names.

Initial names suggested were

- a. Grasstree Trail
- b. Xanthorrhoea Trail
- c. Ballart trail (Ballart is the Wadawurrung name for Cherry Ballart trees)
- d. Conglomerate trail (After the conglomerate outcrops on the two spot heights along the trail)

Further discussion with the Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation and Dr J Dearnaley an ethno botanist, lead to the Wadawurrung name for grasstree.

The Wadawurrung name for Xanthorrhoea Australis is "Bag:gup".

The name "Bag:gup nature trail" has now been put forward to Parks Victoria as a preferred name for the trail.

The use of an appropriate indigenous name is an excellent way of recognising the long association of indigenous people with the forest and the natural history of the landscape.

The naming process is in the hands of Parks Victoria and the use of an indigenous name requires the consent of the Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation.

## 3. Park Works

Parks Victoria have posted revegetation signs along the new fence along Katy Ryans Rd. The area behind the fence was a heavily gorse infested area. The 1976 Eureka Orienteers map shows the area as "thick gorse". The gorse was treated with the "Eco Blade" gorse removal machine in 2018.



Gate with new sign June 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

## 4. Tree Planting 10am on at August 9<sup>th</sup>

500 trees are to be planted in the Park on the old motor cycle track east of Dozed Rd on Sunday August 9th.

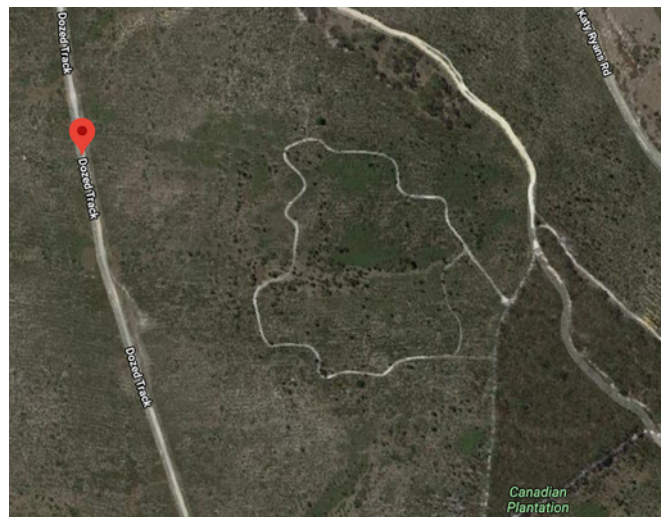
The event is being organised with a clear eye on social distancing and rules.

Rather than one big event the planting day will be organised in small groups at different places around the planting area and at different times.

Already one community group has organised to be present in one area.

Attendance will be by Eventbrite. An invitation will be sent to all members and Friends in the middle of July.

The area around the old motor cycle track is directly south of the 2019 monster tree planting. The area has good understory regrowth but has very few Koala habitat trees (messmates, yarra gums, manna gums etc). The planting will continue the process of creating the Koala corridor between remnant blocks of existing forest.



Outline of the old motor cycle track is still evident in this recent google image.



**5. Dementia Trail News**

Propagating native trees and shrubs for the dementia trail involved many people. Due to Covid 19 closing the propagating host nursery, the tube trees and shrubs needed to be hosted over the winter. On June 5<sup>th</sup> Parks Vic distributed the trays of trees and shrubs to volunteer hosts.



Parks Vic Ranger Paul with Anne and a tray of "Kangaroo Apple" June 5<sup>th</sup> Image courtesy Alex

**6. Old activities in the Park**

Spotted in the north of the Park, something that every kid near bushland has achieved at some time or other.



Also spotted near the Wilson St Watertanks.



Image June 6.

**7. New activities in the Park**

The Park continues to amaze with new recreational activities. Spotted near magnet dam on Katy Ryans Rd was 'magnet fishing". A powerful magnet is used to fish for metal objects with a metal framed yabbie net, several steel belted tires being retrieved. No safes or exotic finds yet!



Thanks, Tayla: Image: June 12 courtesy of Rob

**8. Illegal tracks, rubbish dumpers and firewood thieves**

An illegal track near Recreation Rd where 48 grasstrees were damaged by vandals in May was closed by Parks Vic in late June.



Track closure sign and cover. Image June 26<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Wood thieves**

Have been active in the Park. This dead tree was felled and removed in the first week of June. Several other trees nearby were also removed. These thieves accessed the trees via the west end of the planned Dementia Trail





Fallen stolen tree remains. June 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Rubbish dumpers.** 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.

**9. Local residents keeping an eye on local vegetation.**

Recently a small appropriate and suitable subdivision was undertaken at one end of a large 345 Fussell St property. The remainder of the allotment is covered by Koala trees and contained significant native understory with patches of exotic vegetation.



The understory was completely cleared by a contractor on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. Local residents complained to the Council and after inspection some unspecified action was taken. The case is one of blunt clearing rather than the better method of selective removal of the exotic flora.

It makes the case for local residents to be vigilant when contractors turn up on a site.

**10. 2001 Geelong Rd**

FoCC has objected to a proposed development at 2001 Geelong Rd. The land is a large block and it is the last treed block on the east side of the road.

The proposal is for a huge house and buildings requiring the removal of over half the Koala vegetation on the block as well as a neighbours' old significant trees.

There was a permit for the site issued in 2010 for an appropriately sized building envelope which should be used again to guide the Councils decision.

**Koalas 'still part of Mount Helen'**

A GLEMPSE of this local visitor is just one of the reasons that prompted a Mount Helen resident to highlight the municipality's continuing existence in the area. Kevin Zibell has also made a plea for planners to take the koala population fully into account when making their decisions. Mr Zibell, who lives on Geelong Road, told The Courier he was concerned there was not enough awareness of the existing koalas living in the south-easterly suburb of Fullarton. He believes there is a widespread assumption that the number of resident koalas there is in decline, and wants to challenge that - as well as make sure the council's koa-



LOCAL RESIDENT: This image of a koala was captured in Mount Helen last month, proof that the municipality is still very much a part of the area's landscape. Picture: Adam Trafford.

Courier page 18 June 20 2020

**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 516 530 friends following us on facebook and growing. Feel free to add and pass on to other friends and press the like button.

**2020 calendar**

August 9th	Tree planting "Old motor cycle track". More information mid July.
Aug 19th	General meeting if possible
Oct 21st	Annual meeting "Guest Speaker"
Nov 2nd	Wildflower walk
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas at the Lookout

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The update is generally published monthly. Friends wishing to add articles to the FoCC update may do so by emailing [foccinfo@gmail.com](mailto:foccinfo@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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